To Whom It May Concern,

We respectfully submit this formal objection to the proposed extension of Whittlesea Quarry operations. As devoted patrons of Heysens Rest accommodation facility, we have personally experienced the irreplaceable environmental amenity and tranquil character that defines this remarkable rural location.

The profound peace and natural serenity of this pristine bush setting represents far more than mere amenity—it embodies the essence of what draws visitors from across the region seeking genuine respite from increasingly urbanized environments. This precious tranquility has become the lifeblood of rural tourism enterprises throughout the area, including the cherished Heysens Rest and similar accommodation providers who depend entirely on preserving this unique character.

We are deeply concerned that the proposed quarry extension would constitute a fundamentally incompatible and destructive land use, positioned unconscionably close to well-established tourism operations. This threatens not merely inconvenience, but the complete destruction of small business viability and the irreversible devastation of the area's tourism economy that countless families and operators have worked tirelessly to build.

While the applicant has conducted community engagement activities, we maintain that numerous concerns raised during this process remain inadequately addressed. Furthermore, our review suggests that the proposal has not been subject to sufficient due diligence across several critical assessment areas.

This submission formally documents our objections and presents additional concerns that warrant comprehensive consideration by the relevant planning authority.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the

initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia’s drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

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This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

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While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

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11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry due to significant concerns about its impact on the local tourism industry and community amenity.

Personal Experience and Context As a recent guest at Heysens Rest, I selected this accommodation specifically for its peaceful bush setting and natural surroundings. The tranquil environment provided exactly the kind of restorative experience that draws visitors seeking escape from urban pressures. This quiet atmosphere represents the core value proposition for rural tourism in the area, and I am confident that most visitors share this appreciation for the location's serenity.

Primary Concerns The proposed quarry extension would bring industrial operations significantly closer to established tourism facilities. I am particularly concerned about the cumulative impact of increased noise levels, dust generation, and heavy vehicle movements on the visitor experience. These factors would fundamentally compromise the peaceful character that forms the economic foundation for local accommodation providers and related tourism businesses.

Inadequate Impact Assessment While I acknowledge that community consultation has been undertaken, key concerns regarding long-term tourism viability and environmental impacts appear to remain insufficiently addressed. The economic interdependence between the area's natural amenity and its tourism economy requires more comprehensive analysis and protection measures.

Request for Consideration I respectfully urge decision-makers to give full consideration to preserving the area's tourism appeal and its vital contribution to the local economy. The unique value of this peaceful rural environment, once compromised, would be extremely difficult to restore, potentially causing irreversible damage to established small businesses and the broader community's economic base.

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Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry, based on both personal experience and broader concerns regarding the impact on the environment, local tourism, and the wellbeing of the surrounding community.

As a recent guest at **Heysens Rest**, I was struck by the tranquillity, natural beauty, and unique bushland setting the accommodation offers. It is exactly this kind of peaceful, nature-based experience that draws people to the area and supports small tourism-focused businesses. The quiet atmosphere and scenic environment were major reasons for choosing to stay there, and I believe many others would say the same.

The proposed quarry extension, if approved, would introduce a high level of industrial activity dangerously close to this type of accommodation. The resulting noise, dust, and increased vehicle movement would significantly degrade the area's natural appeal. This not only impacts visitor experience but poses a serious threat to the sustainability of local tourism operators who rely on the serenity and environment as their main attraction.

While community consultation has taken place, I feel that many legitimate concerns raised by residents and visitors have not been properly addressed. In particular, there appears to be limited acknowledgment of the long-term economic consequences for small businesses in the area. The cumulative impact of environmental degradation, noise pollution, and disruption to the natural landscape has the potential to permanently damage the area's reputation as a peaceful retreat and destination for eco-tourism.

Furthermore, I am concerned that the current proposal lacks sufficient planning transparency and due diligence in key areas such as environmental assessment, noise management, and the preservation of community amenity. Decisions of this nature should be made with the highest degree of caution, especially when they risk displacing the very qualities that make the region special.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the responsible planning authorities to reconsider this proposal. The likely impacts on tourism, local livelihoods, and the environment are substantial and, in my view, outweigh any short-term industrial or economic benefits. Once these values are lost, they are not easily regained.

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This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the

people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

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11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

As a recent guest at **Heysens Rest**, I was drawn to its peaceful bush setting—an essential part of its appeal and success. The proposed quarry expansion would introduce significant noise, dust, and disruption, directly impacting the experience for visitors and threatening the viability of small tourism businesses in the area.

Although community consultation has occurred, many concerns—particularly around tourism, environmental impact, and local business—remain unresolved. The proposal appears to lack adequate consideration of these long-term effects.

I respectfully urge the authorities to reconsider this proposal due to its likely harm to the natural environment, local economy, and community character.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation

outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 2 June 2025 8:37 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: [redacted]

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

2 June, 2025

Department for Energy and Mining, South Australia
Attn:
[redacted]
Email: dem.miningregrehab@sa.gov.au

Dear Madam,

We[redacted]

We have only just been informed by one of our neighbours that there is a proposal going through your department about the expansion of the Myponga quarry.

We were unaware of this as we have never received a letter from your department informing us of this matter. We find this extremely unacceptable and more than just an oversight on your department's behalf.

We have been told that everyone within 1 Kilometer radius of the quarry was to have received a letter from your department. The only correspondence we have received was an initial letter from Macro Environmental Solutions in late December 2024 informing us of the community consultation.

We have had no contact from your department regarding this proposal. We find this interesting as we are the closest house to this proposed site apart from the owner of the property "Shirley Whittlesea". [redacted]

We will not be signing this waiver and will not allow this proposal to go ahead as we consider this proposal to be unlawful if it is approved.

We are seeking legal advice on this matter and require more time to submit an informed response.

We believe that there has already been an extension granted but we ***"demand"*** another 4-6 weeks extension to be able to give something of this magnitude the attention it deserves.

We have other people to speak with about this and need to find out that all our neighbours are aware of this stage of the proposal.

As this is your department's mistake you need to rectify this immediately.

We therefore await your "*Urgent"* response to this matter via return.

Regards,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry. My concerns are based on personal experience as a guest at **Heysen's Rest**, as well as broader concerns about the impact on local tourism, the environment, and the community.

Heysen's Rest offers a peaceful bush setting that provides a unique and restorative experience for visitors. Its tranquillity and natural surroundings are central to its appeal and form the basis of its success as a tourism-focused business. The proposed quarry expansion—bringing increased noise, dust, and industrial activity—would severely compromise this environment, reduce the area's appeal and harm local tourism operators who rely on its serenity.

While some community engagement has taken place, I do not believe the concerns raised have been adequately addressed. In particular, the proposal lacks thorough assessment of its long-term impact on tourism, local small businesses, and community well-being. These are crucial factors that require greater attention and transparency in the planning process.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal. The potential harm to the local economy and environment outweighs any perceived short-term gains. Once the character and peace of this area are lost, they cannot be easily restored.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysen's Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately **60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines** nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large, disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid but does not confirm whether this includes **topsoil**—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are **80–100 years old** and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take **up to 100 years** for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take **20 years or more**—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

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Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

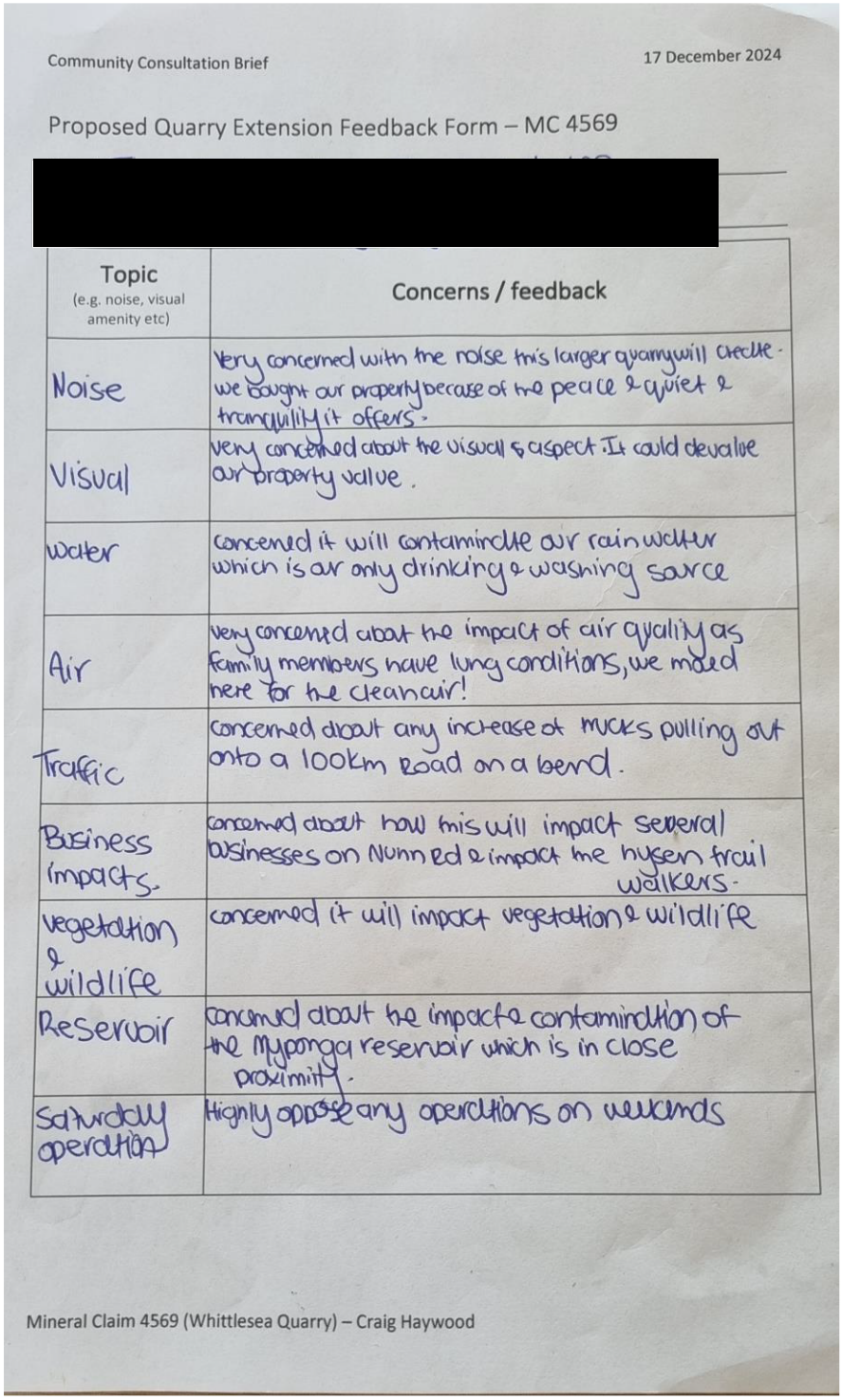
We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Hi, We are sending through our feedback in relation to the mineral claim 4569, and attaching the signature list from a petition from the locals and residents.
If you require anything further please let us know.



Community Consultation Brief 17 December 2024

Proposed Quarry Extension Feedback Form – MC 4569

[redacted]

Topic (e.g. noise, visual amenity etc)	Concerns / feedback
Noise	Very concerned with the noise this larger quarry will create - we bought our property because of the peace & quiet & tranquility it offers.
Visual	very concerned about the visual aspect. It could devalue our property value.
water	concened it will contaminate our rain water which is our only drinking & washing source
Air	very concened about the impact of air quality as family members have lung conditions, we moved here for the clean air!
Traffic	concerned about any increase of trucks pulling out onto a 100km road on a bend.
Business impacts.	concerned about how this will impact several businesses on Numbed & impact the hugen trail walkers.
Vegetation & wildlife	concerned it will impact vegetation & wildlife
Reservoir	concerned about the impact & contamination of the Myponga reservoir which is in close proximity.
Saturday operation	Highly oppose any operations on weekends

Mineral Claim 4569 (Whittlesea Quarry) – Craig Haywood

[redacted]

https://www.change.org/p/reject-the-proposed-mineral-claim-4569-quarry-near-myponga-reservoir

To Whom It May Concern,

I am compelled to write with profound concern and genuine alarm regarding the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry, which threatens to destroy something truly precious in our increasingly urbanized world.

My recent stay at **Heysens Rest** was nothing short of transformative. In our relentlessly busy modern lives, finding genuine peace has become extraordinarily rare and valuable. The accommodation's breathtaking natural bushland surroundings offered more than mere quiet—they provided a sanctuary where the soul could finally breathe. The profound silence, broken only by native birdsong and rustling leaves, created an experience that touched something deep within me that I hadn't even realized was missing.

This wasn't simply about choosing a place to sleep; it was about reconnecting with nature and finding the kind of restorative peace that our stressed society desperately needs. I know countless other visitors have been equally moved by this special place, seeking refuge from the overwhelming noise and chaos of urban life.

The thought of this irreplaceable tranquility being shattered by the thunderous roar of industrial machinery, choking clouds of dust, and endless processions of heavy trucks fills me with deep sadness and anger. The proposed quarry extension would not merely inconvenience visitors—it would obliterate the very essence of what makes this place magical and healing.

My heart breaks for the small tourism operators like those at Heysens Rest, who have poured their passion into creating something beautiful, only to face the devastating prospect of watching it all crumble under the weight of industrial expansion. These aren't just businesses—they're dreams, livelihoods, and vital contributors to our community's character and economy.

While I acknowledge that community consultation has occurred, I am deeply frustrated that the most crucial concerns—the complete destruction of our area's tourism appeal and the irreversible environmental damage—appear to have been dismissed or inadequately addressed. This feels like a betrayal of our community's trust and our collective responsibility to preserve what little natural beauty remains.

I implore the decision-makers to truly understand what we stand to lose forever. This isn't just about balancing competing interests—it's about protecting something irreplaceable that, once destroyed, can never be restored. The economic and spiritual value of this peaceful haven far outweighs any short-term industrial gains.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours’ notice is insufficient for rescheduling

bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

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The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will

undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

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Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally submit my objection to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry. My concerns are based on personal experience and a strong belief that the proposed development will have a detrimental effect on the local environment, the tourism sector, and the overall amenity of the area.

As a recent guest at **Heysens Rest**, I had the opportunity to experience firsthand the peacefulness and serenity that make this accommodation so unique. Situated in a beautiful bush setting, it offers a quiet and restorative environment—qualities that are increasingly rare and deeply valued by visitors seeking to disconnect from urban life and reconnect with nature. These elements are not just luxuries; they are the very foundation on which businesses like Heysens Rest operate.

The proposed extension of the quarry poses a direct and significant threat to this environment. Increased industrial activity—particularly noise, dust, and vehicle traffic—would fundamentally alter the character of the area. The serenity and stillness that define the experience at Heysens Rest would be replaced by the disturbances associated with heavy quarry operations. For small, tourism-based businesses, such changes could lead to reduced bookings, negative guest experiences, and potentially irreversible damage to their reputations and viability.

Moreover, while the applicant has conducted community engagement activities as part of the planning process, I do not believe that sufficient consideration has been given to the full range of concerns raised. In particular, the long-term impact on tourism and the cumulative effect on small business operators do not appear to have been adequately assessed. These are critical factors that go beyond environmental assessments and technical studies—they speak directly to the sustainability of the local economy and the wellbeing of the community.

It is also concerning that this proposal appears to be progressing without a robust examination of alternative solutions or thorough mitigation plans to address its broader impacts. There must be greater transparency and accountability in ensuring that decisions of this magnitude are made with full consideration of all stakeholders, especially those who stand to lose the most.

In conclusion, I respectfully urge the responsible authorities to reconsider this proposal in its current form. The potential negative outcomes for the environment, local tourism operators, and community members far outweigh any short-term benefits that may result from the quarry's expansion. Once the tranquillity of this area is lost, it cannot be reclaimed.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this

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The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

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Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I submit this formal objection to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry extension based on the following concerns:

Background As a recent guest at Heysens Rest accommodation, I have firsthand experience of the quiet rural character that attracts visitors to this area and supports local tourism businesses.

Key Concerns

1. **Land Use Compatibility**: The proposed quarry extension may create conflicts with existing tourism operations that depend on the area's peaceful environment.
2. **Business Impact**: Increased industrial activity, including noise, dust, and truck traffic, could negatively affect the visitor experience and viability of nearby accommodation providers.
3. **Assessment Process**: While community consultation has occurred, concerns about long-term impacts on local tourism and the environment appear to require further consideration.

Request I respectfully ask that the planning authority:

- Carefully evaluate the compatibility of the proposed extension with existing tourism uses
- Consider additional measures to protect the amenity that supports local businesses
- Ensure adequate assessment of cumulative impacts on the area's tourism economy

I believe these matters warrant thorough consideration in the decision-making process.

1. Noise Pollution

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This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

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I'm writing to register my objection to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

During a recent stay at Heysens Rest, I experienced just how special this area is. The quiet, the bushland, the sense of space—it's rare, and it's the reason people come here. Expanding the quarry would destroy the very qualities that attract visitors and support small tourism businesses.

This isn't just about inconvenience. It's about livelihoods. Increased noise, dust, and heavy traffic would make it near-impossible for places like Heysens Rest to operate. Fewer guests, negative reviews, and declining income could lead to businesses shutting down. That means lost jobs and less money in the local economy.

I'm also concerned the full impact on tourism and the environment hasn't been properly considered. The consultation process feels rushed, and there's been no serious exploration of alternatives or long-term solutions.

Once this area is industrialised, there's no going back. We don't get a second chance at preserving these landscapes.

Please reconsider this proposal. Reject the expansion until there's a proper assessment of the broader consequences—not just for the quarry operator, but for the entire community.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia’s drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

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This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet

Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

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7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

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Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

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10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,



03/06/25

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry due to serious concerns regarding its impact upon local tourism and the community's natural environment.

As a recent guest at Heysens Rest, I was genuinely impressed by the accommodation's peaceful bush setting. The tranquil environment provided exactly the restorative experience that visitors seek when escaping urban pressures. This remarkable quietude represents the essence of what makes rural tourism in this region so valuable and distinctive.

The proposed quarry extension would introduce industrial operations uncomfortably close to established tourism facilities. I am particularly concerned about the impact of noise pollution, dust emissions, and heavy vehicle traffic on the visitor experience. These industrial effects would significantly compromise the peaceful character that serves as the foundation for local accommodation providers who have worked diligently to create something special.

While community consultation has taken place, I remain concerned that important issues regarding long-term tourism impacts and environmental effects appear to have received insufficient attention. The relationship between our area's natural amenity and its tourism economy requires more thorough consideration and protection.

I urge the decision-makers to carefully consider what we stand to lose. The tranquillity of this environment represents something genuinely valuable that, once compromised by industrial development, would be extremely difficult to restore. Please do not allow the damage to established businesses and our community's natural heritage to occur without full consideration of the consequences.

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We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry, with particular concern for its impact on mental health, emotional wellbeing, and the psychological value of natural environments.

As a recent guest at Heysens Rest, I experienced the deep sense of calm and restoration this region offers. The natural beauty, quiet bushland, and undisturbed atmosphere create an environment that fosters mental clarity, reduces stress, and encourages psychological healing. We understand this as "restorative environments"—spaces where exposure to nature actively contributes to emotional regulation, cognitive recovery, and an overall sense of wellbeing.

Research in environmental psychology has consistently shown that natural settings—especially those free from industrial noise, air pollution, and visual disruption—can lower cortisol levels, improve mood, and promote connectedness to place. For visitors and residents alike, this area is more than just scenery; it plays a critical role in individual and collective mental health.

The proposed quarry expansion introduces factors that are well known to contribute to psychological distress: chronic noise, visual intrusion, air quality degradation, and the breakdown of perceived environmental safety. These effects may not always be visible in an environmental impact statement, but their consequences are profound. They diminish quality of life, undermine the appeal of nature-based tourism, and erode a community's psychological resilience.

Furthermore, the potential loss of businesses like Heysens Rest—whose value lies in offering peaceful, nature-based experiences—represents not just an economic risk but a loss of access to mental and emotional refuge. The people who come here are often seeking recovery, reflection, or respite. These needs are not addressed in the current proposal.

I urge the DEM to consider the psychological and social impacts of this project alongside its economic and environmental dimensions. Once natural serenity is lost, it cannot be easily reclaimed. In protecting this landscape, you are also protecting mental health, social connection, and long-term community wellbeing.

1. Noise Pollution

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The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many

walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.



[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry.

This development poses serious and irreversible risks to the natural environment, local tourism, and the community character of the Myponga region. The increased noise, dust, and heavy vehicle movements anticipated with this proposal are entirely incompatible with the area's current identity as a peaceful, nature-based destination.

1. **Impact on Local Economy and Tourism**

Tourism is not incidental here—it is foundational. Businesses like **Heysens Rest** depend entirely on the tranquillity and beauty of the natural surroundings. Expanding industrial operations will severely undermine this foundation. A decline in visitor numbers, customer satisfaction, and regional branding is inevitable if this plan moves forward. The result would be long-term damage to local employment and economic diversity.

Despite technical and environmental reports, there is a noticeable lack of serious analysis on the broader social and economic impacts—particularly on tourism and small businesses. Additionally, no genuine consideration of alternative locations or robust mitigation measures has been presented.

2. **Noise Pollution**

Guests at Heysens Rest already report disruptive noise from the western pit, located over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit, just 350 metres from accommodation, would significantly worsen this. Despite regular disruptions from blasting and machinery, there has been no meaningful consultation with operators or residents.

Twenty-four hours' notice for blasting is inadequate, particularly for bookings made months in advance. Notification processes have historically been unreliable. Community approval should be required for the scheduling of blasts.

3. **Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns**

The visual impact of the expansion will permanently scar the landscape. Rehabilitation plans lack credibility, particularly given Australia's poor track record—evidenced by 60,000 abandoned or un-rehabilitated mines (Australian Institute, 2017). The **Sellicks Hill Quarry**, despite attempted rehabilitation, remains a lasting eyesore.

This area should not endure another environmental wound. The expansion area will be highly visible from South Road, diminishing both the scenic value and local identity. The proposal fails to address the challenges of plant survival in this dry region, lacks detail on topsoil composition, and provides no assurance of erosion control during high rainfall periods.

Moreover, the removal of 80–100-year-old trees will devastate habitat for native fauna. Regeneration to restore current ecological functions could take decades—far longer than any operational benefit.

4. **Air Quality – Dust and Health Impacts**

Heysens Rest is located on a dirt road—dust is already an issue, but currently manageable. Increased truck movements, blasting, and excavation will significantly deteriorate air quality. Residents rely on rainwater tanks, which risk contamination from dust, threatening health and water security.

Proposed dust control measures are insufficient. We request the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, with daily readings submitted to DEM and SafeWork. Quarry operations must be suspended if limits are exceeded.

Historical examples such as Sellicks Hill show how poor dust management leads to health issues, community displacement, and unrest. These are not hypothetical risks—they are proven consequences.

5. **Surface Water and Runoff**

The proposed pit lies within the **Myponga Reservoir catchment**, posing unacceptable contamination risks. The surface water flow model excludes critical areas to the east—the very section most vulnerable to runoff into the reservoir. A new, independent hydrology assessment is required.

Current quarry activity has already caused sediment runoff into neighbouring dams. Additional vegetation removal will only exacerbate erosion and runoff concerns.

6. **Cultural Heritage**

The site holds cultural significance for the **Kaurna People**, with historical documentation suggesting the area may be a burial site for victims of an 1850–51 massacre. This has not been acknowledged in the application.

Comprehensive cultural heritage investigations must occur before any further approvals are considered.

7. **Native Flora and Fauna**

The ecological assessment underreports biodiversity. A protected conservation area lies just 400 metres from the site, yet is not discussed. Birdwatchers recently recorded 33 species, far exceeding the 20 noted in the application. Vulnerable species, including Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and Wedge-tailed Eagles, are frequently observed—evidence of nesting must trigger legal protection.

We request an independent ecological assessment by a consultant unaffiliated with the applicant.

8. **Traffic Safety**

The quarry entrance is on a known accident-prone section of **Main South Road**. Increased truck activity will heighten collision risks, especially during road closures that divert traffic to **Forktree Road**, which is unsuitable for heavy vehicles.

Expecting a single staff member to direct trucks safely onto a 100 km/h road is unacceptable. For safety, the operator must fund a **dedicated slip lane** for quarry trucks—similar to other sites with high traffic risk.

It is difficult to believe that under-load trucks or machinery can safely operate in these conditions. That this could continue safely for another 19 years without incident is highly doubtful.

9. Quality of Life

The proposed expansion will significantly reduce the liveability of this community. Dust, noise, and disruption will affect residents' health, especially those with pre-existing conditions, and severely diminish the well-being of families who chose this peaceful region as their home.

10. Community Values

Myponga has become a respected destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The proposal runs directly counter to the region's branding, which promotes "untamed wildlife amidst stunning landscapes."

A petition opposing the expansion gathered 120 signatures in just 17 days, and a previous petition with over 200 signatures was never submitted to DEM by the applicant.

11. Bushfire Risk

The community is deeply concerned about increased fire risk from blasting and machinery, particularly given past fires on this very hill. This risk must be front and centre in all planning discussions.

12. Oversaturation of Quarries

With existing operations at **Sellicks Hill** and **Yankalilla**, there is no demonstrated need for further expansion at Whittlesea. This proposal reflects industry overreach, with insufficient regard for cumulative environmental and social damage.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry represents an unacceptable risk to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the identity of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that the application be **rejected** until independent, transparent assessments are completed and genuine consultation with stakeholders—including residents, Traditional Owners, and environmental scientists—has taken place.

I stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, its environment, and its way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] **2025**

OBJECTION – WHITTLESEA QUARRY

Good morning

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry. My concerns are based on personal experience as a visitor to the area and on broader issues related to the potential impact this development may have on the environment, tourism, and community wellbeing. As a hiker on the Heysen trail, its world wide appeal sits with the opportunities the trail presents to be away from the industrialisation of urban life, and be truly immersed in the natural landscape.

Hikers also contribute to the economy of the region, being known to some as 'walking wallets'. Anything that compromises the reputation of the region also has a flow on effect to communities along the trail.

During a recent stay at **Heysens Rest**, I experienced the tranquillity and natural beauty that make the region such a unique and valued destination. The peaceful bush setting, free from industrial disturbance, is a key reason why visitors choose to stay at accommodations like this. For many, including myself, it is the opportunity to disconnect, unwind, and enjoy nature that defines the experience.

The proposed quarry extension would bring increased industrial activity—including noise, dust, and traffic—much closer to this peaceful environment. These changes could significantly diminish the quality of the visitor experience, and in turn, impact the viability of small, tourism-based businesses that depend on the area's calm and natural appeal.

While I appreciate that community consultation has been undertaken, I feel many of the concerns raised—particularly regarding long-term effects on tourism and the surrounding environment—have not been adequately addressed. The cumulative impact on local businesses and the broader visitor economy deserves careful consideration.

Furthermore, it is important to ensure that developments of this nature are subject to thorough planning and assessment processes. The natural character and ecological value of the area should be treated as assets worth protecting—not only for the benefit of current residents and visitors, but for future generations as well.

[redacted]

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the relevant authorities to reconsider the proposed extension. I believe that with proper planning and stakeholder engagement, more balanced solutions can be found—ones that support local economic activity without compromising the qualities that make this region so special.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

[redacted]

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

[redacted]

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia’s drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

[redacted]

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

[redacted]

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

[redacted]

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.”

This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

[redacted]

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

I respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

I stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and the way of life. And, by extension, the importance of the Heysen Trail for the economy of the regions in traverses.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 June 2025 11:37 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry Expansion – Community Objection Letter

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern

As a lifelong resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula, I am writing to express grave concern about the proposed extension of Whittlesea Quarry, which threatens the unique character of this area.

During my recent stay at Heysens Rest, I experienced firsthand the restorative power of its natural bushland surroundings—a sanctuary where visitors can truly disconnect and recharge. This peaceful environment is rare and deeply valued in today's busy world.

I am deeply troubled by the prospect of this tranquillity being shattered by industrial noise, dust, and heavy vehicle traffic. The quarry extension would undermine the qualities that make this place special for those seeking natural peace.

I am also concerned for small tourism operators like those at Heysens Rest, who have worked tirelessly to create something unique. These businesses play an essential role in the community's character and economic diversity, yet they risk being overshadowed by incompatible industrial development.

Although community consultation has occurred, I remain worried that serious concerns about tourism and environmental impacts have not been adequately addressed. I urge decision-makers to consider carefully what could be permanently lost. This is about protecting something irreplaceable that supports the community's well-being and economic future.

1. **Noise Pollution**

Heysens Rest draws many guests each year—walkers on the Heysen Trail, eco-tourists, and those seeking quiet for yoga and meditation—specifically because of its peaceful bushland setting. This environment is central to the accommodation's appeal and operation. However, it already experiences disruptive noise from the existing western pit, more than 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit, just 350 metres from the property, would bring noise significantly closer and further compromise the tranquillity that guests come for.

Despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle traffic, there has been no consultation about current noise levels. Providing only 24 hours notice is not enough time to reschedule bookings, many of which are made up to six months in advance. Although the community is meant to be notified before blasting, past experience has left residents with little confidence that this will happen. Such an approach is unacceptable; community approval must be sought well in advance for blasting schedules.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will cause lasting damage to the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, experience shows that mine rehabilitation in Australia often fails. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified around 60,000 abandoned and unreclaimed mines nationwide, casting serious doubt on the effectiveness of post-mining land recovery.

A local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry. Despite rehabilitation attempts, it remains a prominent eyesore, undermining confidence in the plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurieu Peninsula should not suffer another large scar on its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave vast disturbed areas visible from South Road, harming the character of the Myponga community and diminishing the region's natural appeal. Rehabilitation is scheduled to occur years after disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. Given the region's hot summers and low rainfall—as seen in 2024—new vegetation will be especially vulnerable without a strong, ongoing watering plan. The proposal lacks details on how tree survival will be ensured.

The plan mentions laying 500mm of stored soil but does not clarify if this includes topsoil—a vital layer for plant health. Topsoil provides nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. During high-rainfall winters, the lack of ground cover, such as mulch or grasses, will cause water runoff and increase erosion.

The proposal's ecological recovery claims are also questionable. The trees being removed are 80 to 100 years old and provide essential habitat for native wildlife, especially birds. New trees will take up to a century to develop the mature trunks and hollows needed for nesting. Even general ecological benefits like canopy cover and habitat linkage could take 20 years or more, leaving the area degraded for a prolonged period to benefit a single mining operation.

Overall, the rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of success. The environmental and visual costs to the region are too significant, and a more thorough review of long-term impacts is essential before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

Dust will always be a factor because the accommodation sits on a dirt road, but current levels remain acceptable. Any extension, however, risks making this worse. Nunn Road is a quiet, dead-end road used mainly by residents. Increasing heavy vehicle traffic, excavation, and blasting will inevitably raise dust levels, posing serious risks for anyone with respiratory or health concerns.

The proposal claims operations will continue as usual after the extension, yet it also acknowledges that intensified work may occur to meet larger orders, generating more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry, worsening dust problems as conditions become drier. As mining approaches within

350 metres of the property boundary, dust impacts will grow. Since the property relies entirely on rainwater tanks, more dust could contaminate the main water supply, threatening the health of the family and their guests.

The proposed dust management plan will fall short if the project proceeds. The quarry must install a comprehensive silica dust monitoring system, using **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI),** operating continuously during quarry hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM and SafeWork, and quarry operations must halt immediately if dust limits are exceeded.

Dust problems at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already stirred community unrest, caused health issues, and forced several families to leave. Amid a housing crisis, residents should not face the choice between safe living conditions and keeping their homes. The Department of Energy and Mining approved that quarry under similar conditions, but strong opposition from residents—many living farther from that site than those affected here—demonstrates the impacts were neither fully understood nor properly addressed.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising serious environmental and health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model overlooks this risk and fails to address it.

A more comprehensive water flow model is urgently needed, as the existing proposal stops short of the eastern area—the primary source of runoff into the catchment. This area connects directly to the reservoir through causeway pipework, meaning any contaminated runoff could jeopardise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion is also a significant concern, especially where vegetation is cleared for spoil mounds. Neighbours have already reported silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry entering their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area holds cultural significance for the Kaurna People, as parts of their Dreaming stories pass through it. A document from the Yankalilla Historical Society identifies the site as a possible burial ground, referencing a massacre in 1850 or 1851 in which 14 First Nations individuals are believed to have been buried somewhere along what is now Nunn Road. The report does not acknowledge this history.

Consultation with Kaurna Elders and cultural authorities is ongoing to locate and confirm the site. Any disturbance in this area must be subject to thorough investigation and close consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

An Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) has been submitted, but it omits a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site jointly managed by The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rest regularly attracts birdwatchers; a recent group identified 33 bird species—significantly more than the 20 species listed in the report. The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, noted as vulnerable in the report, is often seen in large flocks passing through the area. Rare and vulnerable species like the Flame and Scarlet Robins were also observed but not mentioned. This reveals shortcomings in the survey and underlines the urgent need for a new, independent assessment by a consultant not appointed by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently seen hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in recent months. This suggests a nearby nesting site that should receive protection under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance sits is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures on this stretch. When closures occur, traffic is diverted onto Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volume on this road has increased. With new housing and infrastructure developments, traffic is expected to grow further in the coming years. Relying on a single staff member on-site to manage cars travelling at 100 km/h around a corner and decide whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an inadequate traffic management plan, especially given today's strict safety standards and protocols.

> *'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The manoeuvre should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'*

It is hard to believe that trucks carrying heavy loads or machinery can merge safely under these conditions. Claims that the quarry can continue operating for another 19 years without an accident are questionable. If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund a dedicated slip lane to ensure safe access and exit for quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been imposed on other quarries facing high traffic risks.

8. Community Values

Myponga has become a sought-after destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. Promoted in Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials as a place "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes," the region offers visitors a rare sense of peace and natural beauty. Accommodation along the Heysen Trail attracts walkers who are specifically seeking this quiet, restorative environment. The proposed quarry expansion—clearly visible from key tourist routes and located next to a reservoir—undermines that appeal.

Community opposition is strong. A recent petition against the expansion gained 120 signatures in just 17 days, with efforts continuing to reach 1,000. An earlier petition collected over 200 signatures in three weeks, but the applicant failed to include it in their submission to the Department for Energy and Mining.

9. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern about the heightened bushfire risk caused by increased heavy machinery use and blasting across the quarry site. Given that fires have already occurred on this hill, residents fear the risk could one day lead to an uncontrollable blaze. The area's vulnerability to bushfires must be a primary consideration.

10. Oversaturation

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for expansion. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry poses unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community. It threatens the quality of life for residents who value the area's peaceful rural bush setting, with increased dust and noise placing particular strain on families with health conditions. The emotional and financial consequences for the community would be severe.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and our way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry, based on my direct experience as a guest at Heysens Rest.

I recently stayed at this accommodation and was struck by the peacefulness and natural beauty of the surroundings. It offered something increasingly rare: genuine tranquillity in a bushland setting, away from the noise and pressures of daily life. It was not just a place to stay—it was an experience of connection with nature and stillness.

This is precisely what makes Heysens Rest and similar tourism businesses so valuable—not just economically, but culturally and environmentally. Visitors come here for the quiet, the birdlife, the open space, and the restorative atmosphere. Introducing expanded quarry operations—bringing with it industrial noise, dust, and increased heavy vehicle traffic—would fundamentally undermine this experience.

From a guest's point of view, even subtle disturbances are enough to change a trip from relaxing to disappointing. Word of mouth and online reviews are critical to tourism businesses, and the presence of visible or audible industrial activity would inevitably affect their reputation. In time, these businesses would struggle to attract guests and may be forced to close. The flow-on effects to employment and the local economy would be significant.

Equally concerning is the lack of consideration given to these impacts in the planning process. While technical studies may address noise or air quality in isolation, they do not account for how these changes affect the lived experience of visitors—or the viability of businesses that rely on that experience.

I urge DEM to reconsider this proposal. The natural amenity of this area is not just scenery—it is an economic and community asset. Once it is damaged, it cannot be undone. The cost of losing that far outweighs any short-term industrial gain.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon**

Instruments (MABI), operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not

reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

We respectfully submit this formal objection to the proposed extension of Whittlesea Quarry operations. As patrons of Heysens Rest accommodation facility, we have direct experience of the environmental amenity and tranquil character that defines this rural location.

The peaceful and serene nature of this bush setting represents a fundamental attraction for visitors seeking respite from urban environments. This tranquility constitutes a primary economic driver for rural tourism enterprises in the region, including Heysens Rest and similar accommodation providers.

We contend that the proposed quarry extension would create an incompatible land use in close proximity to established tourism operations, thereby jeopardizing both the viability of existing small businesses and the broader tourism economy of the area.

While the applicant has conducted community engagement activities, we maintain that numerous concerns raised during this process remain inadequately addressed. Furthermore, our review suggests that the proposal has not been subject to sufficient due diligence across several critical assessment areas.

This submission formally documents our objections and presents additional concerns that warrant comprehensive consideration by the relevant planning authority.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

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The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

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This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

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While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

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The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives

amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

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There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

We wish to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry.

As regular visitors to the Fleurieu Peninsula, and particularly to the Myponga region, we are deeply concerned about the irreversible environmental consequences this project would bring to an area of significant natural and ecological value. Earlier this year, we signed a petition in a local café opposing this development, alongside others who care about protecting Myponga's unique landscape and biodiversity.

The proposed quarry expansion directly threatens the integrity of the surrounding environment. Increased industrial activity—particularly dust emissions, heavy vehicle traffic, and noise—risks degrading the air and water quality, disturbing wildlife habitats, and disrupting the natural tranquillity that defines this region. The Myponga Reservoir, a critical environmental and community asset, could also be placed at risk by cumulative pollution and land disturbance.

Tourism businesses in the area depend on the preservation of this unspoiled landscape. Visitors are drawn here not for industry, but for the clean air, scenic bushland, and peace that industrial development would inevitably compromise. Undermining these qualities would not only hurt local livelihoods but weaken long-term environmental stewardship in the region.

We understand that community concerns were raised during the applicant's engagement process, yet we find the proposed responses to these concerns inadequate and lacking transparency. It is clear to us that this proposal has not undergone the rigorous environmental assessment it demands.

This is not just a local planning issue—it is a test of our commitment to valuing and protecting natural landscapes for future generations. We strongly urge that this proposal be rejected, or at the very least subjected to far more robust, independent environmental scrutiny and community consultation.

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1. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." There is a section of the Heysen Trail located adjacent to this quarry expansion, many walkers who choose to stay in this area for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. We would like a further outline of how keeping the tree alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

We also question the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention work that the owners of Burrangong are doing on a section of their farm to protect and conserve an area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This

area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rest regularly attracts groups of birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 identified in this report. Two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, there are often flocks of these birds flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

There are reports that there are Wedge-tailed Eagles observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. We've recorded over 30 sightings in the past month, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

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4. Noise Pollution

We have reviewed the quarry operator's response to noise concerns, which claims that operations will remain unchanged. However there are businesses and residents currently experience disruptive noise from the western pit. The proposed eastern pit will bring that noise significantly closer and will increase noise exponentially.

It sounds like hardly any of the resident have ever been consulted about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting. 24 hours' notice is insufficient warning for people who live and work in the area. Some of the residents who have lived in the area have never had any contact by the quarry operator in regards to noise, 1 neighbour has contacted once about noise in 13 years. A small business owner has an accommodation business that is already affected as they run wellness retreats, as small accommodation business which is vital to the tourism sector in this area, they depends on the peaceful environment. Many of their guests stay with them to seek out a quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

Although they are promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. We don't accept this as a solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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5. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The concern is the anticipated increase in airborne dust due to the quarry expansion. While there are dirt roads in the area, most of them are quiet back roads, with minimal traffic—primarily local residents. One of our businesses in the area has already faced trading restrictions due to dust emissions related to traffic volumes. An increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation will undeniably worsen dust conditions.

There are many families in this area who have close family members who suffer from dust related issues, an increase in dust would make this area unliveable to some and to others they wouldn't be able to visit loved ones.

Although we've been told operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. We recently experienced a drought, leaving the land extremely dry. As the mine expands the resulting dust will only intensify.

Households in that area, rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source, putting their family's health at risk.

We have found all the solutions put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed, we request the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork and quarry operations should cease immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing.

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6. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

We request a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

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7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is happening and popularityof the Fleurier Peninsular as a whole, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

We don’t believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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8. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. Residents are in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage group.

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9. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

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10. Property Values

The expansion will significantly reduce property values:

- Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
- Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
- Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.

This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

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11. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request that there are strict maintenance requirements and reports placed on the aging heavy machinery used in the quarry, dictated and overseen by DEM on a monthly basis. Another option is, brand new machinery is to be purchased by the operator to ensure it safe working order.

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12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

As someone who supports sustainable tourism and has experienced the unique appeal of the Myponga region, I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. This development presents unacceptable and far-reaching risks—not only to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, and road safety—but also to the very qualities that make this area a valued destination for visitors.

The tranquillity, natural beauty, and rural charm of Myponga are central to its tourism economy. Increased industrial activity—including dust, noise, heavy vehicle traffic, and landscape degradation—would undermine the visitor experience, deter return travel, and

damage the reputation of local tourism businesses that depend on a clean, peaceful environment.

This proposal overlooks the voices of local tourism operators, residents, and visitors who treasure this region for its serenity and natural assets. The consequences of proceeding without transparent impact assessment and meaningful consultation with the community, cultural representatives, and environmental experts would be irreversible.

I respectfully urge the decision-makers to decline this application until a full, independent review is undertaken, and all stakeholders are genuinely heard.

I stand with the local community in opposing this development and in advocating for the protection of Myponga's natural character, tourism economy, and way of life—for the benefit of future generations and all who seek to enjoy this special place.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to formally object to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry extension on the grounds of fundamental technical and operational incompatibility with existing land use, particularly in relation to established tourism infrastructure.

The proposed expansion introduces significant disruptions to nature-based tourism operations, which rely on specific environmental parameters—namely, ambient noise levels below 35 dB, low particulate concentrations, and a visually undisturbed natural landscape. The anticipated increase in industrial noise, airborne dust, and heavy vehicle traffic would directly undermine these conditions, rendering the area unsuitable for its current tourism functions.

This development threatens to permanently degrade the environmental quality that underpins the region's viability as a tourism destination. Clean air, tranquillity, and landscape integrity are not incidental features; they are essential operational baselines for businesses offering immersive and restorative visitor experiences. Quarrying at the proposed scale would breach these thresholds, leading to systemic declines in visitor satisfaction, business performance, and regional economic resilience.

The proposal lacks adequate technical analysis of alternative extraction methods and fails to demonstrate meaningful stakeholder engagement. The consultation process has not accounted for operational constraints faced by tourism enterprises, nor has it presented viable mitigation strategies to reconcile land use conflicts.

This development prioritizes short-term extractive gains at the expense of a proven, sustainable tourism sector that contributes ongoing economic, environmental, and social value to the region.

I strongly urge the Department of Energy and Mining to undertake a comprehensive technical review, including robust impact modelling and a detailed assessment of land-use compatibility. Proper evaluation of the long-term consequences is essential before any further consideration is given to this proposal.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the

reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents significant and unacceptable risks across multiple critical areas including public health and safety, environmental sustainability, cultural heritage preservation, traffic infrastructure capacity, and the established character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully submit that this application should be declined pending comprehensive independent review and meaningful consultation processes that genuinely engage local residents, cultural heritage representatives, and qualified environmental specialists. The current assessment framework appears insufficient to address the complexity and scope of potential impacts.

We maintain strong opposition to this development proposal and remain committed to advocating for the protection of the Myponga community's interests, environmental preservation, and the maintenance of established quality of life standards that define this region.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 1:55 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

I recently stayed at Heysens Rest and was struck by the peace, natural beauty, and unique character of the area. These qualities are the very reason people visit—and the foundation of the local tourism economy.

An expansion of quarry operations would bring industrial noise, dust, and heavy vehicle traffic, all of which would irreversibly damage the visitor experience. This not only puts local businesses at risk but also diminishes the area's long-term value for both residents and tourists.

The current proposal does not adequately consider these impacts. I urge the Council to reject the expansion or require a thorough reassessment that takes full account of the social and economic consequences for the community.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately **60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines** nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.
A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.
The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.
The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes **topsoil**—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.
There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are **80–100 years old** and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take **up to 100 years** for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take **20 years or more**—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.
The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

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The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

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Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

This proposal poses an unacceptable threat to one of South Australia's premier tourism destinations. The increased noise, dust, and industrial traffic would fundamentally destroy the peaceful, pristine environment that attracts visitors from across Australia and internationally. The quarry expansion is entirely incompatible with the nature-based tourism experiences that define this region's appeal.

My multiple stays at Heysens Rest have been motivated by the exceptional tranquility and unspoiled landscapes that provide an authentic escape from urban environments. Industrial quarrying operations would irreversibly destroy the very qualities that draw tourists to this destination, eliminating the unique visitor experience that supports local accommodation providers, restaurants, wineries, and tour operators throughout the region.

The tourism industry represents a sustainable economic model that showcases the Peninsula's natural assets while preserving them for future generations of visitors. This quarry expansion threatens to undermine decades of tourism development and destination marketing that has established the Myponga as a sought-after travel destination. The resulting damage to the region's tourism reputation would extend far beyond the immediate vicinity, affecting visitor perceptions of the entire area.

Tourism businesses depend entirely on maintaining the authentic natural character and peaceful atmosphere that distinguishes this destination from industrialized areas. The permanent loss of these tourism assets cannot be justified by short-term extractive industry gains.

I urge the DEM to reject this proposal and protect South Australia's valuable tourism infrastructure. Myponga's reputation as a premier nature-based destination must be preserved for current and future visitors who contribute sustainably to the regional economy.

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The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

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There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry due to serious concerns regarding its impact on local tourism and our community's natural environment.

As a recent guest at Heysens Rest, I was impressed by the accommodation's peaceful bush setting that provided exactly the restorative experience visitors seek when escaping urban pressures. This tranquillity represents the essence of what makes rural tourism in this region so valuable.

The proposed quarry extension would introduce industrial operations uncomfortably close to established tourism facilities. I am particularly concerned about noise pollution, dust emissions, and heavy vehicle traffic compromising the peaceful character that serves as the foundation for local accommodation providers who have worked diligently to create something special.

While community consultation has taken place, important issues regarding long-term tourism impacts and environmental effects appear to have received insufficient attention. The relationship between our area's natural amenity and its tourism economy requires more thorough consideration.

I urge decision-makers to carefully consider what we stand to lose. The tranquillity of this environment represents something genuinely valuable that, once compromised by industrial development, would be extremely difficult to restore.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours’ notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area’s scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

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This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

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We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

As a recent guest at **Heysens Rest**, I was drawn to the accommodation for its peaceful setting and natural bushland surroundings. It offered a quiet, relaxing experience that is increasingly valued by people looking to spend time away from busy urban environments. The quiet atmosphere was a major reason for choosing this location, and I believe many visitors would feel the same.

With the proposed quarry extension moving closer to this type of accommodation, I am concerned that the increased industrial activity—particularly noise, dust, and traffic—could have a negative impact on the overall experience for visitors. This, in turn, may affect small tourism businesses that rely on the area's natural and tranquil character.

I understand that community consultation has taken place, but it seems some concerns, particularly around the potential long-term impacts on local tourism and the environment, remain unresolved. It would be helpful to see more clarity and assurance on how these impacts will be managed or mitigated.

I respectfully ask that the decision-makers give careful consideration to these issues and take into account the importance of maintaining the area's appeal to visitors and its contribution to the local economy.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

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Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 8:59 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry

You don't often get email [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry and its potential impact on the local tourism ecosystem. During my recent stay at HeysensRest, I experienced the area's remarkable tranquility and natural beauty, which attracts visitors seeking genuine relaxation. The quarry expansion threatens to disrupt this serene environment with increased industrial activity, leading to dust, noise from heavy machinery, and a constant stream of large vehicles. Such changes would undermine the appeal of local accommodations that have been developed to attract guests. While community consultation has occurred, I worry that the long-term effects on tourism and the environment have not been adequately addressed. The tourism sector is vital to the local economy, supporting businesses and community services. I urge decision-makers to fully consider the impacts on small businesses, the regional economy, and the preservation of the area's unique natural character, as these represent our community's cultural and environmental heritage that would be difficult to restore once compromised.

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directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

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Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been aincreased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is

safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bushsetting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who havehealth conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects

a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Mypongacommunity, the environment, and way of life.

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 7:27 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: NO QUARRY

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I formally object to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry extension based on its impact on the tourism industry and local community.

This proposal presents significant risks to established tourism businesses in the region. The increased noise, dust, and industrial traffic would directly conflict with the peaceful environment that nature-based tourism requires to operate successfully. These impacts appear inadequately evaluated during the planning process.

The expansion would undermine the region's reputation as a tourism destination. Visitors choose this area specifically for its unspoiled landscapes and quiet atmosphere - qualities that would be permanently compromised by large-scale quarrying operations. This threatens not only individual businesses like Heysens Rest but the broader tourism economy that has developed around the Peninsula's natural assets.

The proposal lacks sufficient consideration of alternative approaches and meaningful engagement with affected tourism operators. The consultation process has not adequately addressed legitimate concerns or provided effective solutions to mitigate operational impacts on existing businesses.

This development prioritizes short-term resource extraction while potentially undermining long-term sustainable tourism that has demonstrated economic value and community benefit. The tourism sector provides ongoing economic opportunities with established market support and positive environmental outcomes.

I respectfully request the DEM reconsider this proposal and ensure more thorough consultation and impact assessment that properly addresses the concerns of affected tourism businesses and the broader community.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately **60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines** nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.
A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.
The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.
The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes **topsoil**—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.
There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are **80–100 years old** and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take **up to 100 years** for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take **20 years or more**—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.
The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

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The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

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We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry due to concerns about its impact on local tourism and community amenity.

Personal Experience As a recent guest at Heysens Rest, I chose this accommodation specifically for its peaceful bush setting. The tranquil environment provided the restorative experience that draws visitors seeking escape from urban pressures. This quiet atmosphere represents the core value for rural tourism in the area.

Primary Concerns The proposed quarry extension would bring industrial operations closer to established tourism facilities. I am concerned about the impact of increased noise, dust, and heavy vehicle movements on the visitor experience. These factors would compromise the peaceful character that forms the economic foundation for local accommodation providers.

Assessment Issues While community consultation has occurred, concerns regarding long-term tourism viability and environmental impacts appear insufficiently addressed. The economic relationship between the area's natural amenity and its tourism economy requires more comprehensive analysis.

Request I respectfully urge decision-makers to fully consider preserving the area's tourism appeal and its contribution to the local economy. The unique value of this peaceful environment, once compromised, would be extremely difficult to restore and could cause irreversible damage to established businesses.

1. Noise Pollution

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This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

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Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 9:34 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: MYPONGA MINE! No!

You don't often get email [redacted]. Learn why this is important

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,
I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.
While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.
1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts
A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.
While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left

the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.
The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.
The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.
Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination
The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.
There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia’s drinking water.
Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.
We don’t believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding.
Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns
The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts,

undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of topsoil—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require up to 100 years to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need 20 years or more—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution
The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.
Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna
The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.

This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values
Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values
The expansion will significantly reduce property values:
• Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
• Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
• Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.
This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk
Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The

current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.

This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.

We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.

We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 9:58 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Quarry Concerns

You don't often get email [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. Spending my youth in the Fleurieu Peninsula and as someone who has worked and lived in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.

While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam. We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns
The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of topsoil—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require up to 100 years to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need 20 years or more—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

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The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

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Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

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This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
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Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers

seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

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12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
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Conclusion
The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.
This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.
We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.
We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.

Sincerely,
[Your Full Names]

[Your Address]
[Your Contact Information]



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 7:12 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea quarry objection

You don't often get emai[redacted] Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry, compelled by profound concerns regarding its deleterious impact upon local tourism and the wholesale destruction of our community's invaluable natural sanctuary.

Personal Testament As a recent patron of Heysens Rest, I found myself utterly captivated by the accommodation's serene bush setting. The sublime tranquillity offered precisely the restorative balm that modern souls seek when fleeing the cacophonous demands of contemporary urban existence. This extraordinary quietude is not merely an amenity—it constitutes the very essence and beating heart of what renders rural tourism in this region so exquisitely precious and utterly irreplaceable.

Substantive Concerns The proposed quarry extension would introduce rapacious industrial operations perilously proximate to our treasured tourism establishments. I am profoundly disquieted by the spectre of relentless noise pollution, suffocating dust clouds, and the ceaseless procession of thunderous heavy vehicles obliterating the visitor experience that countless individuals hold dear. These industrial depredations would irrevocably shatter the peaceful character that serves as the indispensable economic cornerstone for local accommodation providers who have laboured with such dedication to cultivate something truly magnificent.

Procedural Inadequacies Whilst community consultation has ostensibly occurred, I remain deeply vexed that pivotal concerns regarding the wholesale devastation of long-term tourism prospects and environmental ruination appear to have been treated with deplorable inadequacy. The delicate symbiosis between our region's natural splendour and its tourism economy demands far more rigorous scrutiny and zealous protection.

Impassioned Appeal I beseech the decision-makers to comprehend the magnitude of what we risk forfeiting in perpetuity. The sublime tranquillity of this environment represents something genuinely sacred that, once desecrated by industrial encroachment, shall remain forever beyond redemption. I implore you—do not permit the irreversible annihilation of established enterprises and our community's natural patrimony to occur under our stewardship.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek

out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and

blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concernsdue to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested thatthe implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia’s drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they areoften seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been aincreased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

‘In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety’

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bushsetting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who havehealth conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 6:22 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry

You don't often get email [redacted] Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As someone who resides in the Fleurieu Peninsula and works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned by this expansion and the devastating consequences that it would have on residents and community living near the expansion site. Many concerns have been raised to me from members of the community regarding the implications this expansion will have on our health, quality of life, property value, and the broader community.

There has previously been lots of concerns raised during the community engagement phase initiated by the applicant. We don't think that any of the solutions in rebuttal to these concerns are adequate. We now wish to formally submit our concerns, along with additional issues that have since come to our attention. It is our belief that this proposal has not undergone sufficient due diligence in several critical areas. This proposal needs to undergo a level of scrutiny that we don't believe is being given to such a sensitive issue to us.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System** including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)** operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

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There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately **60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines** nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of **topsoil**—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are **80–100 years old** and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require **up to 100 years** to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need **20 years or more**—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution

The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna

The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values

Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values

The expansion will significantly reduce property values:

- Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
- Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
- Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.

This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk

Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.

This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.

We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.

We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 9:41 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Myponga Mine

[You don't often get [redacted] Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

To Whom It May Concern,
I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.
While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.
1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.
While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.
The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.
The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.
Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.
There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia’s drinking water.
Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.
We don’t believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of topsoil—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require up to 100 years to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need 20 years or more—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution
The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site. Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna

The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
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Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

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The expansion will significantly reduce property values:
• Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
• Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
• Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.
This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk
Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.

This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.

We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.

We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

This proposal poses a clear and unacceptable risk to the environment, the local economy, and the long-term amenity of the region. The impacts of increased noise, dust, and industrial traffic are incompatible with the surrounding land uses, especially tourism and nature-based accommodation, which depend entirely on the area's peace and natural beauty.

Tourism is a growing and sustainable contributor to the region. Businesses like Heysens Rest cannot operate alongside quarry activity of this scale. The disruption would drive visitors away, damage reputations, and put jobs at risk. The economic cost to the community outweighs any short-term benefit to the quarry operator.

It's also evident that the broader social and economic consequences have not been adequately assessed. There is little evidence of genuine consideration of alternatives or robust mitigation measures.

This area is valued not just for what it provides economically, but for its character, its biodiversity, and its contribution to quality of life. Once it is industrialised, these qualities are lost for good.

I strongly urge DEM to reject the expansion in its current form. Any development of this scale must be approached with greater transparency, long-term vision, and proper regard for the community it affects.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000

abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon**

Instruments (MABI), operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not

reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 5:18 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea quarry

You don't often get email from [redacted] why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry. My opposition is grounded in direct observation as a recent visitor to the area, as well as in professional concerns from an engineering and systems perspective. The risks posed by this expansion—environmental, infrastructural, and economic—are significant and insufficiently addressed in the current proposal.

During my stay at Heysens Rest, I observed the distinctive environmental qualities that define the region: low ambient noise, clean air, and a tranquil, bushland setting largely untouched by industrial disturbance. These conditions are not incidental—they are central to the area's appeal as a destination and form the basis of its local tourism economy. Introducing intensive extractive operations into this context creates unavoidable conflict between land uses.

The projected noise levels associated with quarry operations may fall within regulated limits, but this does not account for the unique acoustic sensitivity of the area. In quiet natural environments, even low-frequency industrial sounds or intermittent vehicle noise can be highly intrusive. The effect on visitors is not merely aesthetic; there are documented links between environmental noise and reduced visitor satisfaction, stress, and poor sleep quality—all of which are particularly relevant to accommodation providers like Heysens Rest.

In addition, airborne particulate matter generated by quarrying activity poses both environmental and health risks. Even if emissions are technically compliant, visible dust plumes and the accumulation of fine particles can significantly degrade the visual amenity and ecological integrity of the area. These changes will not go unnoticed by visitors and will negatively affect the overall experience, particularly for those seeking a clean, nature-based retreat.

The expansion also implies a substantial increase in heavy vehicle traffic on roads not designed for industrial loads. This not only raises safety concerns for local residents and tourists, but also imposes long-term maintenance costs on public infrastructure. The absence of detailed transport modelling or mitigation strategies raises further concern about the adequacy of planning for secondary impacts.

Critically, the proposal fails to address the broader economic implications for the local tourism sector. Nature-based tourism in this area is not marginal; it is a core economic contributor. Yet the supporting documentation does not appear to provide any rigorous modelling of the economic risks posed to operators who rely entirely on environmental quality and visitor perception. From a systems-level perspective, this omission represents a significant planning oversight.

Finally, I find the lack of detailed risk mitigation troubling. Once this environment is altered—through noise, dust, and visual disturbance—tourism businesses may be irreparably damaged. There is no meaningful provision for compensatory measures or adaptive management strategies should the expansion negatively affect community wellbeing or business viability.

For these reasons, I urge the DEM to reject the proposal in its current form. At the very least, a comprehensive reassessment is required—one that includes independent economic modelling, cumulative impact analysis, and a serious investigation of alternatives. Any project of this scale must be approached with a view to long-term sustainability, multi-sector compatibility, and the preservation of environmental and community values.

1. Noise Pollution
Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.
This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.
There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns
The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.
A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.
The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.
The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.
There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.
The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts
The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting

will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.
Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.
The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System, including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI), operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.
Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination
The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk. A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.
Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.
Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna
While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.
Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion
The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community. We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.
We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.
Sincerely,
[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

As a recent guest at **Heysens Rest**, I appreciated the peaceful bush setting and quiet atmosphere, which were key reasons for choosing this accommodation. The natural environment is a major draw for visitors, and I believe any increase in industrial activity nearby—particularly noise, dust, and traffic—could reduce the appeal of the area and affect local tourism businesses.

While I understand that community consultation has occurred, I feel that the potential long-term impacts on tourism and the environment need further consideration. Small businesses that depend on the area's tranquillity may be particularly vulnerable to these changes.

I respectfully ask that the proposal be carefully reviewed, with consideration given to the balance between development and maintaining the character of the local area.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation

outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

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This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

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Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 10:25 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry

You don't often get email [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula surrounds and someone who works and lives in the area, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.

While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam. We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.

Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of topsoil—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.

We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require up to 100 years to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need 20 years or more—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution

The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.
Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna
The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values
Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers seeking its tranquil

setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values
The expansion will significantly reduce property values:
• Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
• Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
• Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.
This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk
Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion
The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.
This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.
We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.
We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 2:31 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry Proposal Response

You don't often get [redacted] why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

As a regular guest at Heysens Rest, I formally object to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry extension.

This proposal poses unacceptable environmental and economic risks to the region. The increased noise, dust, and industrial traffic are fundamentally incompatible with tourism infrastructure that depends on tranquil, natural surroundings for its viability.

My stays at Heysens Rest have been defined by profound peace and pristine natural beauty that would be irreversibly compromised by industrial quarrying operations. The regional tourism sector provides sustainable economic benefits in harmony with environmental preservation, yet this development would damage visitor experiences, undermine business reputations, and jeopardize local employment.

The proposal demonstrates inadequate assessment of comprehensive social and economic consequences, with insufficient consideration of viable alternatives or effective mitigation strategies that could address legitimate community concerns.

This region possesses intrinsic value encompassing distinctive natural character, biodiversity significance, and contribution to community quality of life. Industrial development of this magnitude would permanently destroy these fundamental environmental and social attributes.

I respectfully urge the Department for Environment and Water to reject this expansion proposal. Any development of such scale must demonstrate greater procedural transparency, incorporate genuine long-term strategic vision, and exhibit appropriate regard for the communities and environments it would irreversibly affect.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017

report by the Australian Institute identified approximately **60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines** nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes **topsoil**—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are **80–100 years old** and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take **up to 100 years** for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take **20 years or more**—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry. As someone who recently stayed at Heysens Rest, I experienced the unique peace and natural beauty of the area—qualities that are essential to the success of local tourism and the wellbeing of the community.

Key Concerns:

1. Threat to Tourism and Local Economy
The quarry extension would significantly harm tourism businesses like Heysens Rest. Increased noise, dust, and heavy vehicle traffic will destroy the area's tranquillity—resulting in fewer visitors, poorer guest experiences, negative reviews, and potential business closures. This means lost jobs and reduced economic activity.

2. Inadequate Impact Assessment
The long-term impacts on tourism and small business have not been properly assessed. There has been little analysis of alternatives or clear mitigation strategies. Community consultation alone does not equal thorough planning.

3. Irreversible Environmental Damage
The proposed expansion would degrade native bushland, disrupt wildlife, and reduce the area's natural appeal. Once this environment is damaged, it cannot be fully restored.

Request

I urge DEM to reject the proposal in its current form. At minimum, a proper economic and environmental assessment must be completed, with real consideration given to alternative solutions and meaningful protections for tourism and community amenity.

This region’s natural character is its greatest asset. We must protect it—for residents, for local businesses, and for future generations.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours’ notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

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meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is

managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

‘In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety’

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the

people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 9:07 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Myponga Quarry Objection

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.

While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise

South Australia’s drinking water.
Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam. We don’t believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns
The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of topsoil—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require up to 100 years to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need 20 years or more—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution
The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying thisarea as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.
Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna
The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values
Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst

stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values
The expansion will significantly reduce property values:
• Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30%of value.
• Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
• Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.
This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk
Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion
The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.
This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.
We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.
We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 9:43 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab

You don't often get email [redacted].au. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry.

As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.

While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts
A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.
There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.
Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.
We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns
The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of topsoil—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require up to 100 years to develop

mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need 20 years or more—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution
The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.
Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna
The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values
Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values
The expansion will significantly reduce property values:
• Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
• Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
• Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.
This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk
Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion
The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.
This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.
We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health

experts.
We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.



03/06/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry. My opposition stems from direct personal experience and deep concerns about the proposal's adverse impacts on the local environment, tourism industry, and community amenity.

Personal Experience and Observations

During my recent stay at Heysens Rest, I directly experienced the **exceptional tranquility and natural beauty** that defines this area. The accommodation offers guests a rare chance to find genuine peace within a pristine bush setting—a truly precious commodity in today's urbanized world. This serenity is fundamental to the business model of tourism operators like Heysens Rest, as their success relies entirely on the area's unspoiled character.

Direct Threats to Local Tourism

The proposed quarry extension would introduce significant industrial disturbances that are fundamentally incompatible with the area's current appeal. The inevitable increase in noise pollution, dust generation, and heavy vehicle movements would destroy the very qualities that attract visitors to this region. For tourism businesses, this represents an existential threat through:

- Substantial decline in guest satisfaction and return visits
- Irreparable damage to business reputation and online reviews
- Potential closure of operations dependent on environmental quality
- Loss of employment and economic activity in the tourism sector

Inadequate Impact Assessment

While community consultation has occurred, the assessment process appears to have significant gaps. The long-term economic impact on tourism operators and the cumulative effects on small businesses have not received adequate analysis. These considerations extend far beyond standard environmental and technical studies—they concern the very economic sustainability of our local community.

The absence of comprehensive alternative assessments and robust mitigation strategies is particularly troubling. Decisions with such far-reaching consequences demand thorough examination of all options and transparent consideration of every stakeholder's interests.

Call for Reconsideration

I strongly urge the relevant authorities to reject this proposal in its current form. The potential devastation to our environment, tourism economy, and community wellbeing cannot be justified by any short-term economic gains from quarry expansion.

The tranquil character of this area, once destroyed, cannot be restored. We have a responsibility to preserve these irreplaceable natural assets for current and future generations.

I respectfully request that this objection be given full consideration in your decision-making process.

Noise Pollution: An Existential Threat to Heysens Rest

Heysens Rest currently endures disruptive noise originating from the western pit, over 600 metres distant. The proposed eastern pit, however, is a mere 350 metres from the accommodation, guaranteeing a significant increase in noise pollution.

This directly undermines the core function of Heysens Rest, a business entirely dependent on its peaceful, bush-surrounded environment. Annually, numerous guests are hosted, many specifically seeking this quiet bush setting for activities such as yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the adjacent Heysen Trail.

Alarmingly, there has never been consultation regarding current noise levels, despite persistent disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. The provided 24-hour notice for blasting is entirely insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made up to six months in advance. Furthermore, despite promises of community notification for blasting events, there are low expectations of this occurring, given the quarry's past management of this issue. This proposed solution is unacceptable and requires community approval for all blasting schedules.

Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. There is also a major concern for anyone who suffers from health concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management is insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site.

Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along the present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultations with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and asks for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

The volume of traffic on this road has dramatically risen since the quarry's 1988 opening. This, combined with considerable local housing and infrastructure growth, means future traffic will only intensify. Expecting one staff member to safely manage 100 km/h traffic around a corner for a truck to pull out poses an unacceptable risk and falls far short of current strict traffic management standards and protocols.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

It's hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

Quality of Life

This expansion proposal poses a direct threat to the residents and community, jeopardizing the peaceful rural bush setting they cherish. The increased dust and noise from the quarry directly imperil the well-being of those who live here, particularly impacting families with individuals suffering from health conditions. The emotional and financial repercussions of this proposal would be devastating.

Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and hosts many

walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply needed for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
[redacted]
Thursday, 5 June 2025 7:06 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea quarry

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.

While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

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Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
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The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.
This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.
We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.
We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

As a guest of Heysens Rest I have a strong appreciation for both environmental integrity and sustainable development, I feel compelled to raise serious concerns about the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry and the potentially damaging effects it will have on the local tourism ecosystem. During a recent stay at Heysens Rest, I was struck by the peacefulness and natural beauty of the area—qualities that are essential in attracting visitors seeking authentic, restorative experiences.

The proposed expansion poses a direct threat to this atmosphere. The anticipated increase in industrial operations—such as heavy machinery noise, dust pollution, and a steady flow of large transport vehicles—will significantly disrupt the tranquillity that visitors come here to enjoy. This disruption won't just affect tourists; it will have a ripple effect across the local economy, particularly for small accommodation providers and businesses that have invested heavily in promoting the region as a nature-based destination.

Although community consultation was conducted, it is clear that the long-term consequences for tourism, small business, and the environment have not been thoroughly or adequately addressed. Tourism is not just a lifestyle industry—it supports countless jobs, sustains local infrastructure, and fosters community pride. For the area to maintain its identity and economic vitality, decisions must take into account the irreversible impact this project could have on the landscape and the reputation of the Fleurieu Peninsula. Once the peace, beauty, and biodiversity of this region are compromised, they cannot simply be engineered back into existence. I urge a complete re-evaluation of this proposal, grounded in respect for both the environment and the sustainable future of our community.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for

Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under

similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

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This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many

walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry due to concerns about its potential impact on the surrounding environment, local tourism, and small businesses in the area.

During a recent stay at *Heysens Rest*, I had the opportunity to experience the peaceful, bushland setting that makes this part of Myponga so unique. The accommodation offers a quiet, restorative experience—something increasingly rare and highly valued by visitors. The appeal of the region lies in its natural beauty, sense of seclusion, and escape from the noise and stress of urban life. This setting is not only important to visitors like myself, but also to the small businesses that rely on the area's natural qualities to attract and retain guests.

The proposed expansion of the quarry brings with it the risk of increased industrial noise, dust, and vehicle traffic. These impacts would likely alter the current character of the area and diminish its appeal as a destination for those seeking rest and reconnection with nature. Tourism and nature-based accommodations depend on a sense of tranquillity and environmental integrity—both of which may be significantly affected by this proposal.

I understand that community consultation has taken place. However, it appears that many of the concerns raised during this process, particularly regarding tourism and the long-term sustainability of local businesses, have not been sufficiently addressed. The natural amenity of the area is not easily replaced once altered, and any negative changes could have lasting consequences for the local economy and community wellbeing.

It is essential that developments of this nature strike a balance between economic interests and environmental and social responsibility. In this case, the potential loss of tourism appeal, community character, and small business viability should be carefully weighed against the proposed industrial expansion.

I respectfully urge the relevant authorities to reconsider this proposal and give thoughtful attention to the broader implications it may have for the local area. Preserving the natural and peaceful qualities of this region is vital—not only for current residents and businesses, but for future generations who deserve to enjoy what Myponga has to offer.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

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A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.



The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Energy and Mining
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Level 4, 11 Waymouth Street
[redacted]
dem.miningregrehab@sa.gov.au

5 June 2025

RE: Objection to Whittlesea Quarry Expansion

Dear Minister,

I write to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry due to its unacceptable impact on local tourism, environmental values, community wellbeing, and public safety.

During a recent stay at Heysens Rest, I experienced firsthand the serenity and natural beauty that draws visitors to the region. This peaceful setting is essential to the area's growing eco-tourism economy, which the proposed quarry expansion directly threatens.

Key Concerns:

1. **Noise & Dust Pollution:**
   Current blasting noise is already disruptive at 600m. The new pit, just 350m away, would intensify impacts. Dust from increased traffic and excavation threatens both health and rainwater supplies. Dust mitigation measures are inadequate; it would be a necessary requirement for real-time dust monitoring and compliance reporting.

2. **Visual and Environmental Degradation:**
   The expansion will scar the landscape and undermine tourism. The proposed rehabilitation plan lacks detail, and past failures—like Sellicks Hill Quarry—raise doubts. Old-growth trees being removed provide critical habitat and cannot be replaced within a meaningful timeframe.

3. **Water Contamination Risk:**
   The new pit lies in the Myponga Reservoir catchment. The Surface Water Flow Model is incomplete and fails to address runoff risks. This poses a threat to the state's drinking water supply.

4. **Cultural Heritage:**
   There is strong evidence of First Nations cultural significance in the area, including a likely massacre site. This has not been properly acknowledged or assessed.

5. **Biodiversity Impacts:**
   A nearby protected conservation zone is not addressed in the proposal. Bird species like Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos and Wedge-tailed Eagles, among others, are frequent in the area and were overlooked in the ecological assessment.

6. **Traffic Safety:**
   Truck access to South Road is dangerous, particularly without a proper slip lane. The current traffic management plan is inadequate and unsafe for the proposed extension.

7. **Community Amenity & Bushfire Risk:**
   Local residents face increased noise, dust, and fire risk from machinery and blasting. Families should not be forced to choose between health and their homes.

8. **Oversaturation of Quarrying:**
   With Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla quarries nearby, expanding Whittlesea is unnecessary. The cumulative impact is excessive and unjustified.

Conclusion:
This expansion risks irreversible harm to the environment, tourism, cultural heritage, and community health. We urge the Department and Minister to reject the proposal and conduct a more thorough, transparent assessment with genuine community input.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet and discuss with you further.



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally express my objection to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry, citing concerns regarding its potential impact on the surrounding environment, local tourism, and small businesses within the area.

During a recent stay at Heysens Rest, I had the privilege of experiencing the serene bushland setting that renders this part of Myponga particularly unique. The accommodation provides a tranquil and restorative environment—attributes increasingly rare and highly valued by discerning visitors. The allure of the region is rooted in its natural beauty, sense of seclusion, and the opportunity to escape the noise and stress of urban life. This setting is not only significant for visitors like myself, but also for the small businesses that rely on the area's natural characteristics to attract and retain clientele.

The proposed expansion of the quarry introduces the risk of heightened industrial noise, dust, and increased vehicle traffic. Such impacts are likely to alter the current character of the area and diminish its appeal as a destination for individuals seeking rest and reconnection with nature. Tourism and nature-based accommodations are predicated upon a sense of tranquillity and environmental integrity—both of which may be profoundly undermined by this proposal.

I recognize that community consultations have been conducted; however, it appears that many of the concerns articulated during this process, particularly those pertaining to tourism and the long-term viability of local businesses, have not been satisfactorily addressed. The natural amenities of the area are not easily restored once compromised, and any adverse changes could have enduring ramifications for the local economy and the well-being of the community.

It is imperative that developments of this nature strike a judicious balance between economic interests and environmental and social responsibilities. In this instance, the potential loss of tourism appeal, community character, and the viability of small businesses must be carefully weighed against the proposed industrial expansion.

I respectfully urge the relevant authorities to reassess this proposal and give due consideration to its broader implications for the local area. Preserving the natural and tranquil qualities of this region is vital—not only for the current residents and businesses but also for future generations who deserve to enjoy what Myponga has to offer.

1. Noise Pollution

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This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely

on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests' health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There is ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is

managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been an increased volume of traffic on this road, alongside the growth that is being put into the area regarding the new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

‘In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The manoeuvre should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety’

It’s hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that cannot be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry and the potential effects it may have on the surrounding area.

During a recent stay at *Heysens Rest*, I was able to experience the quiet, natural beauty that makes this part of the region so appealing. It's a peaceful retreat, ideal for those looking to get away from noise and busyness—something that's becoming increasingly rare and valued. The bush setting and sense of calm are central to the visitor experience.

An expansion of the quarry risks disrupting this with increased industrial activity, including more dust, noise, and vehicle traffic. These changes could significantly alter the atmosphere of the area and impact local accommodation providers who rely on its natural appeal to attract guests.

While I appreciate that community consultation has taken place, I feel that the long-term effects on tourism and the local environment haven't been fully addressed. These are important aspects of the local economy and community life, and they deserve closer consideration in the planning process.

I respectfully ask that the impacts on small businesses, tourism, and the area's unique character be taken into account as part of the decision-making process.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for

Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose

between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many

walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As both a resident and someone who works in the Fleurieu Peninsula, I am deeply concerned about the serious and lasting effects this development would have on our local community— particularly those of us who live and work in close proximity to the site. The expansion threatens the health, wellbeing, and quality of life that drew many of us to this region in the first place, and it risks undermining the strong sense of community and connection to place that we have built over the years.

Throughout the community consultation process, many residents voiced well-founded concerns about the impacts of dust, noise, traffic, and declining property values. However, the responses provided by the applicant have failed to meaningfully address these issues. Instead, they have left many of us feeling unheard and disregarded. Since that time, additional concerns have come to light— further reinforcing our belief that this proposal has not received the level of careful investigation and accountability that a development of this magnitude demands.

As someone who both lives and contributes to the local economy and culture every day, I urge decision-makers to conduct a far more rigorous, independent review of this application. The long-term risks are too significant to be overlooked, and the community deserves to be properly heard and protected before any decision is made.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System** including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon**

Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia' s drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

We don' t believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at

100km/h around a corner— an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately **60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines** nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal.
Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of **topsoil**— critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are **80– 100 years old** and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require **up to 100 years** to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need **20 years or more**— leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution

The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna

The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species— far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and

vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values

Community Values and Tourism Impact
Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values

The expansion will significantly reduce property values:

- Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
- Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
- Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.

This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk

Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area— Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry— this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity— dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation— threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.

This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.

We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.

We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life— for current and future generations.

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 10:15 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: My concerns on the Expansion of the Whittlese quarry.

You don't often get emai[redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.

While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam. We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

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The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of topsoil—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require up to 100 years to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need 20 years or more—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution
The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.
Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna
The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values
Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers

seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values
The expansion will significantly reduce property values:
• Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
• Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
• Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.
This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk
Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion
The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.
This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.
We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.
We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.

[redacted]



To Whom It May Concern,

We are regular guests at Heysens Rest, and as such we formally object to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry extension based on concerns about its impact on the tourism industry and local community.

This proposal presents significant risks to established tourism businesses in the region. The increased noise, dust, and industrial traffic would directly conflict with the peaceful environment that nature-based tourism requires to operate successfully. These impacts appear inadequately evaluated during the planning process.

Having stayed at Heysens Rest several times, I understand that the accommodation's appeal depends entirely on providing guests with tranquillity and pristine natural surroundings. The proposed quarrying operations would create fundamental challenges for tourism operators, as industrial extraction and peaceful accommodation experiences are inherently incompatible.

The expansion would undermine the region's reputation as a sought-after tourism destination. Visitors choose this area specifically for its unspoiled landscapes and quiet atmosphere - qualities that would be permanently compromised by large-scale quarrying operations. This threatens not only individual businesses but the broader tourism economy that has developed around the Peninsula's natural assets.

The proposal appears to lack sufficient consideration of alternative approaches and meaningful engagement with affected tourism operators. The consultation process has not adequately addressed legitimate concerns or provided effective solutions to mitigate the operational impacts on existing businesses.

This development prioritizes short-term resource extraction while potentially undermining long-term tourism that has demonstrated sustainable economic value and community benefit. The tourism sector provides ongoing economic opportunities with established market support and positive environmental outcomes.

I respectfully request the Department of Energy and Mining reconsider this proposal and ensure more thorough consultation and impact assessment that properly addresses the concerns of affected tourism businesses and the broader community.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours’ notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the

community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia’s drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

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Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

‘In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The manoeuvre should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety’

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

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There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 5:55 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry extension

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I hereby submit this formal objection to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry extension on the following grounds:

Standing and Material Interest As a patron of Heysens Rest accommodation facility, I have direct material interest in the preservation of the environmental amenity that constitutes the primary commercial value of tourism operations in this locality.

Primary Grounds for Objection

1. **Incompatible Land Use**: The proposed industrial expansion constitutes fundamentally incompatible land use adjacent to established tourism enterprises, contrary to sound planning principles.
2. **Economic Impact**: The extension will cause demonstrable economic detriment to existing small businesses through noise pollution, dust emissions, and heavy vehicle traffic, thereby undermining the quiet rural character upon which these enterprises depend.
3. **Inadequate Assessment**: The consultation process has failed to adequately address substantive concerns regarding long-term tourism viability and environmental impacts, suggesting insufficient due diligence in the assessment process.

Legal and Planning Considerations The proposal appears to contravene established planning objectives for rural tourism zones and fails to demonstrate adequate mitigation measures for identified adverse impacts on existing commercial operations.

Relief Sought I respectfully request that the relevant authority:

- Refuse the extension application in its current form
- Require comprehensive economic impact assessment on existing tourism businesses
- Mandate adequate buffer zones and mitigation measures if any approval is contemplated

This objection is submitted in accordance with statutory notification requirements and planning appeal rights are hereby reserved.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

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We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] 5 June 2025 5:27 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

As a recent guest at Heysens Rest, I was drawn to the accommodation for its peaceful bush setting—an essential element of its charm and appeal. The tranquillity and natural surroundings are vital not only to the guest experience but to the success of this type of tourism business.

The proposed extension poses a significant threat to that environment. The increased industrial activity, including noise and dust, would have a negative impact on visitor experience and may severely affect the viability of such businesses in the area.

While we understand that community engagement has taken place, many concerns remain unresolved. We believe the proposal lacks sufficient due diligence, particularly regarding environmental impact and the broader effects on local tourism.

I respectfully urge the responsible authorities to reconsider this proposal, given the potential harm it poses to the community, the natural environment, and the local economy

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Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Mypongacommunity, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my profound concerns about the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry and the far-reaching effects it may have on the surrounding region, particularly its impact on the delicate tourism ecosystem that has developed around this area's unique natural character.

During my recent stay at Heysens Rest, I was able to experience firsthand the extraordinary quiet and natural beauty that makes this part of the region so genuinely appealing to visitors seeking authentic respite. The accommodation provides a peaceful retreat that serves as an antidote to our increasingly urbanized and noise-polluted world—something that has become extraordinarily rare and correspondingly valued by those seeking genuine restoration. The pristine bush setting, with its native wildlife and profound sense of calm, creates the very foundation of the visitor experience that draws people from across the region and beyond.

The proposed expansion of the quarry fundamentally risks disrupting this carefully cultivated atmosphere through the introduction of substantially increased industrial activity. The inevitable consequences—including persistent dust clouds that would settle over the natural landscape, relentless noise from heavy machinery operating throughout extended hours, and the constant stream of large industrial vehicles—would collectively and dramatically alter the essential character of the area. These cumulative industrial impacts would not merely inconvenience visitors but would systematically undermine the core value proposition that local accommodation providers have spent years developing to attract guests seeking tranquility and natural beauty.

While I acknowledge and appreciate that community consultation has taken place as part of the planning process, I remain deeply concerned that the comprehensive long-term effects on the tourism industry and the broader environmental integrity of the region have not been adequately examined or addressed. The tourism sector represents a vital component of the local economy, supporting not only accommodation providers but also related services, local suppliers, and the broader community infrastructure that depends on visitor spending. Similarly, the environmental implications extend beyond immediate noise and dust concerns to encompass the long-term sustainability of the area's natural ecosystems and the wildlife habitats that contribute to its appeal.

I respectfully but urgently request that the decision-makers give comprehensive consideration to the impacts on small businesses that have invested their livelihoods in this area's tourism potential, the broader economic implications for the regional tourism industry, and the preservation of the area's unique and irreplaceable natural character. These elements are not merely economic considerations but represent the cultural and environmental heritage of our community that, once compromised, would be extraordinarily difficult if not impossible to restore.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

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The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

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Sincerely,



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry, based on both personal observation and well-documented scientific concerns regarding the environmental, acoustic, and socio-economic impacts of extractive industry operations in sensitive rural and peri-urban settings.

During a recent stay at Heysens Rest, I experienced the area's defining environmental characteristics —low ambient noise levels, high biodiversity, and a distinct sense of tranquillity derived from the surrounding native bushland. These attributes are not incidental; they constitute the core value proposition of the local ecotourism sector and align with principles of restorative environmental exposure, which are increasingly recognised in health and tourism research.

Scientific studies consistently demonstrate that exposure to natural, undisturbed environments contributes significantly to visitor satisfaction, mental restoration, and positive place attachment. These elements are critical drivers of repeat visitation and positive reviews, particularly in nature-based accommodation businesses. Any degradation to this environmental quality—through increased particulate matter, industrial noise intrusion, or visual disruption—has been shown to lead to measurable declines in guest satisfaction, occupancy rates, and ultimately, business viability.

The proposed expansion introduces clear vectors of disturbance:

- **Noise pollution**: Quarrying operations, including blasting and heavy vehicle movements, generate low-frequency noise that travels across large distances, particularly in open, vegetated areas.
- **Dust and particulate matter**: Elevated PM10 and PM2.5 levels are common near quarry sites and may affect both human health and amenity.
- **Traffic and infrastructure strain**: Increased haulage truck movements alter local traffic dynamics, increase safety risks, and further reduce amenity in rural environments.

Crucially, the existing environmental and economic assessments associated with the proposal appear to insufficiently account for the **cumulative impacts** on tourism-based enterprises. While site-level environmental thresholds may be met, the broader system-level consequences—on perceptions of place, visitor behaviour, and economic sustainability—are not addressed in a meaningful or evidence-based way.

As a guest, I selected Heysens Rest specifically for its environmental quality. Should industrial activity encroach on this setting, I would be unlikely to return, and I expect this sentiment would be widely shared among other visitors. This is not an abstract concern; it represents a tangible economic risk to tourism-dependent operators and, by extension, to the broader regional economy.

Given the irreversible nature of many of the proposed changes and the absence of robust mitigation strategies grounded in peer-reviewed research or longitudinal economic modelling, I urge Council to reject the current proposal. At minimum, a revised assessment should be undertaken that includes independent modelling of tourism impacts, community wellbeing outcomes, and land-use conflict risks.

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[redacted]

[redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 10:36 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Concerns regarding the Whittlesea Quarry Propasal

You don't often get email [redacted]. Learn why this is important

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I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry due to concerns about its potential impact on the local environment, tourism, and small businesses in the area.

I recently stayed at Heysens Rest, a peaceful accommodation nestled in the bushland near the proposed site. One of the most appealing aspects of the stay was the tranquillity and natural beauty of the surroundings—qualities that are central to the guest experience and the success of tourism in the region.

Expanding the quarry closer to this location would likely result in increased noise, dust, and industrial traffic. These changes would compromise the serene atmosphere that visitors seek and could have a detrimental effect on local tourism operators who rely on the area's quiet, natural character.
Although community consultation has taken place, it seems that concerns about the long-term implications for tourism and the local environment have not been fully addressed. The region's natural charm is a key asset and should be preserved to support both the local economy and community wellbeing.
I respectfully urge decision-makers to carefully consider these impacts before proceeding with the proposal. Preserving the area's natural qualities is vital to maintaining its appeal and supporting those who live and work in the region.

1. Noise Pollution
Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.
This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.
There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns
The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.
The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.
The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.
There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.
The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts
The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.
Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.
The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System, including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI), operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.
Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk. A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.
Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.
Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna
While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.
Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.
Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.
'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.
Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life
This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values
Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.
A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.
There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk
There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion
The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community. We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.
We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 7:42 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Sand mine at Myponga

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the FleurieuPeninsula and someone who lives and works in deep connection with the natural environment of Myponga, I feel a strong responsibility to speak out against a proposal that threatens not only the physical health of our community, but also the energetic balance of this land. The Fleurieu is a place where many of us have chosen to live in harmony with nature—valuing clean air, quiet landscapes, and the sense of peace and wellbeing that comes from being surrounded by living ecosystems.

I have listened to many community members who are struggling with real fears—about the rising levels of dust and noise, the potential damage to our water, and the emotional and spiritual stress that comes from seeing a cherished landscape disrupted by industrial activity. These are not abstract concerns. They directly affect our health, our ability to live mindfully and sustainably, and our connection to the land we care for.

While a consultation process was carried out by the applicant, the responses to these heartfelt concerns have felt lacking in depth, empathy, and seriousness. As a community that values both scientific understanding and holistic wellbeing, we find it unacceptable that this proposal has not undergone the level of independent, transparent review that such a significant and sensitive development demands. We ask that this application be reassessed with greater awareness of its true impacts—on the body, on the land, and on the spirit of this place.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System** including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)** operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified
approximately **60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines** nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of **topsoil**—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.
We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are **80–100 years old** and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require **up to 100 years** to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need **20 years or more**—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution

The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying thisarea as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna

The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values

Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values

The expansion will significantly reduce property values:

- Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30%of value.
- Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
- Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.

This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk

Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this

particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

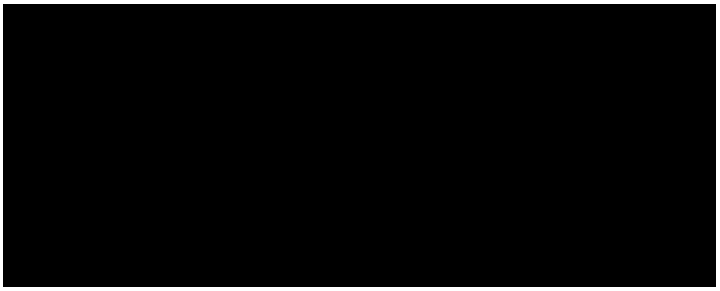
Conclusion

The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.

This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.

We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.

We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 7:24 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: MINING OBJECTION

You don't often get email [redacted] why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.

While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System** including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)** operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

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The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
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We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.

This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.

We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.

We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2025 10:20 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Whittlesea Quarry

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.

While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.

1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.

While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.

The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.

The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam. We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.

Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, raising serious doubts about post-mining land recovery reliability.

Locally, Sellicks Hill Quarry remains a prominent eyesore despite rehabilitation attempts, undermining confidence in Whittlesea's proposed plans.

The expansion will create large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting Myponga community character and regional aesthetic appeal. Rehabilitation occurs years after initial disturbance, leaving landscapes barren for extended periods. With hot summers and low rainfall (as in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be vulnerable without robust, consistent watering plans. We require detailed tree survival management plans.

The proposal specifies 500mm of stored soil but doesn't confirm inclusion of topsoil—critical for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, moisture retention, and drainage support. Without it, plantings will likely fail. During high-rainfall winters, absent ground cover (mulch, grasses, tree foliage) will cause water runoff and increased erosion.

We question ecological recovery claims. Existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical native fauna habitat, especially for birds. New trees require up to 100 years to develop mature trunks and nesting hollows. General ecological benefits like habitat linkage and canopy development need 20 years or more—leaving the area degraded long-term for one mining operation's benefit.

The rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and success evidence. The environmental and visual costs are too great, requiring thorough long-term impact review before any approval.

5. Noise Pollution
The proposed 24-hour notice is insufficient for area residents and workers. Many residents already hear the quarry operations and with is encroaching closer to their homes, it will only increase.

There is a local small accommodation Heysens Rest, located next to the quarry expansion which is a vital component of local tourism. They depend on the peaceful environment as guests seek quiet bush settings for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including Heysen Trail walkers. Current quarry noise already affects their business.

6. Cultural Heritage
This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.
Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

7. Native Flora and Fauna
The submitted Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, 13 January 2025) fails to mention conservation work at Burrangong, located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed collaboratively with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysen's Rest regularly attracts birdwatching groups. A recent group identified 33 different bird species—far exceeding the 20 identified in the report. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, listed as vulnerable, often fly through the area in flocks. Rare and vulnerable species including Flame and Scarlet Robins have been observed but weren't reported.
This demonstrates inadequate research. We request a new assessment by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site, with over 30 sightings recorded in the past month. This suggests a nearby nesting site requiring protection under environmental law.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.
The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

9. Community Values
Community Values and Tourism Impact

Myponga has become a desirable eco-tourism and nature-based recreation destination. Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials describe the region as one "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation, located along the Heysen Trail, hosts many walkers

seeking its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, with efforts underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

Another petition gathered over 200 signatures in 3 weeks but was never included in the applicant's DEM submission.

10. Property Values
The expansion will significantly reduce property values:
• Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
• Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
• Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.
This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

11. Bushfire Risk
Widespread community concern exists over increased bushfire risk from intensified heavy machinery use and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires already occurring on this particular hill, residents fear the risk of an uncontainable fire. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request strict maintenance requirements and monthly reports for aging heavy machinery, dictated and overseen by DEM. Alternatively, the operator should purchase brand new machinery to ensure safe working order.

12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries
When Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it served a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area—Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry—this expansion is unnecessary. These quarries, situated further from residents, provide ample supply capacity for regional needs. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion
The proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and Myponga community character. Cumulative impacts from increased industrial activity—dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—threaten both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems defining this region.
This proposal disregards residents and local stakeholders who depend on the area's tranquillity and natural beauty for livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. Proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation will have irreversible long-term consequences.
We urge this application be declined unless a full, independent review is conducted with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.
We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue advocating for protection of our community, environment, and way of life—for current and future generations.

Sincerely,
[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

As a recent guest in the Fleurieu Peninsula, I feel compelled to strongly oppose the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry due to its potential to seriously undermine the guest experience that draws so many visitors to this remarkable region. During my recent stay at Heysens Rest, I experienced first-hand the serenity, natural beauty, and sense of stillness that make this area so unique and restorative. These are not just nice-to-have qualities—they are the very reasons why guests choose to visit, return, and recommend the area to others.

Expanding the quarry would directly threaten this experience. The increase in dust, industrial noise, and heavy vehicle traffic will erode the peace and immersion in nature that visitors seek when staying here. The visual and audible presence of quarry operations would replace the calm with disruption, transforming what is currently a rejuvenating escape into something far less desirable. For accommodation providers who have worked hard to build a reputation based on tranquility and natural surroundings, this development risks undoing years of effort and investment.

Although a consultation process took place, it is clear that the perspectives of visitors—and the expectations they bring—have not been properly considered. Tourism isn't just about numbers; it's about meaningful experiences, emotional connection to place, and word-of-mouth trust. Once those qualities are damaged, they are nearly impossible to regain.

The Fleurieu Peninsula has positioned itself as a haven for nature-based tourism, and the guest experience is central to its identity and economic future. If this expansion proceeds, it will not only diminish the quality of stay for future guests but also send a message that industrial growth is being prioritised over environmental integrity and visitor wellbeing. I strongly urge decision-makers to reconsider this proposal in light of its long-term impact on guest satisfaction, tourism viability, and the region's reputation as a place of rest, beauty, and connection.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000

abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

'In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one "where untamed wildlife thrives

amidst stunning landscapes." This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 4:41 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Department for Energy and Mining, South Australia
C/- dem.miningregrehab@sa.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

We write to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As long-term residents of [redacted], where we have lived for the past 13 years—and located just 200 metres from the proposed expansion site—we are deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this development will have on our quality of life, property value, and the health and wellbeing of the surrounding community.

Despite our property's close proximity to the proposed site, we were not directly notified by the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) regarding this application. The only communication we received came from the applicant during the initial community engagement process in late December.
Given our location, this failure to notify us constitutes a serious lapse in process—one we regard as more
than a simple oversight. It was only through a neighbour that we became aware of the next stage of this
proposal. We now fear that other residents may also have been left uninformed, raising questions about
the adequacy and fairness of the consultation process.

Concerns were raised by residents during the earlier consultation period, yet many of these have not been addressed with transparency or sufficient care. We now wish to formally reiterate and expand on
those concerns, as additional information and impacts have since come to light.
It is our firm belief that this proposal lacks the necessary due diligence across multiple critical areas and
should be subject to far more thorough review and genuine community consultation before any further
consideration is given.

1. Section 9 of the Mining Act 1971 – Exempt Land
The residence of which our family lives is 200m from the proposed Mining Lease. Section 9 of the Mining
Act 1971 provides that land that is situated within the prescribed distance of a building or structure used
as a place of residence will be exempt from the authorised operations in pursuant of this Act and, unless

the benefit of exemption is waived under section 9AA, no claim lease or licence will authorise operations
on such land. The prescribed distance in relation to advanced exploration operations or any operations
for the recovery of extractive minerals is 400 meters.

We will not be signing a waiver under section 9AA.

There is a neighbour whose residence is approximately 350 metres from the proposed Mining Lease whom we understand the residents there also will not be granting a waiver under Section 9AA. Following legal advice, we believe the proposed Mining Lease cannot lawfully be granted by Department
of Energy and Mining, because it would constitute a very clear breach of Section 9 of the Mining Act 1971
and would be unlawful.

A key residential component of our property appears to have been overlooked in the current quarry expansion application. Specifically, there is a small cottage built in approx 1930 situated approximately

200 metres from the northern boundary of the proposed Eastern Pit extension. This residence is registered as [redacted] with the Yankalilla Council and has its own power meter
and septic system. It seems the distance measurements used in the application were taken from our main residence, which is set further back on the property, thereby excluding this important structure. This cottage, located closer to Main South Road, has served various residential purposes over the years.
Until six months ago, our two sons were living there, and it currently stores personal belongings. Moreover, we are actively exploring renovation plans for the building, hopefully beginning in the near future, with the goal to have it used as a residence once again.

To this end, we have been in contact with the Yankalilla Council to understand our options and ensure
that our plans align with local regulations. The council has provided guidance on what would be permissible with the existing structure, reinforcing our intention to restore and utilise it as a functional
dwelling.

Given the cottage's proximity to the proposed quarry expansion, it is vital that this structure be acknowledged and considered in all assessments relating to this expansion proposal. Ignoring it presents
a misleading picture of residential proximity and underrepresents the potential effects of the quarry extension on our property and future use of this dwelling. We respectfully request that this omission be
corrected and that the cottage be fully incorporated into all future planning, environmental, and impact
assessments.

2. Concerns Regarding Application Integrity and Accuracy.
Throughout our limited review of the Whittlesea Quarry expansion application, we have identified numerous inconsistencies, omissions, and technical errors. Given the brief time frame and limited

resources available to us, the extent of these findings raises serious concerns about the overall accuracy
and reliability of the entire application.

One particularly concerning issue involves the handling of EML 5542. It appears that Mineral Claim MC4569 has been pegged directly over EML 5542, which is not standard practice. Typically, a new Mineral Claim is pegged independently—not over an existing, active tenement. This deviation from established procedure calls into question the applicant's understanding of proper regulatory processes, or
alternatively, suggests a deliberate attempt to limit the number of residences affected by buffer zone requirements. Either scenario is deeply troubling.

Furthermore, concerns submitted by a neighbouring resident during the designated consultation period—including a petition of over 300 signatures—were not included in the application to the Department for Energy and Mining. These were submitted within the appropriate timeframe and in good
faith. Their exclusion demonstrates a significant oversight or disregard for community input, further undermining the transparency and integrity of this application.

Additional confusion arises in the applicant's treatment of "drag-out traffic." It appears the term was misinterpreted to refer to debris or dirt left on roadways by heavy vehicles. In road safety contexts, however, "drag-out" refers to the manner in which trucks merge onto roadways—specifically, the risk associated with slow or prolonged merging. This misinterpretation not only indicates a lack of technical
understanding but has serious implications for traffic safety. As residents living near this corner, we have

witnessed frequent accidents and near misses. We do not believe that heavily loaded trucks can safely
execute this manoeuvre on the current road infrastructure, and we expand on this concern in the Traffic
Safety and Infrastructure section of this submission.

We believe this application requires an independent and rigorous reassessment. Many aspects—including air quality, surface water, cultural heritage, native flora and fauna, noise, bushfire risk,
and community values—demand a level of scrutiny and monitoring that cannot be left solely in the hands
of the applicant or their chosen consultants. Oversight must come from independent and qualified professionals to ensure unbiased analysis.

Conclusion

Despite the limited time available, the errors and misjudgements we have identified point to a broader
pattern of inaccuracy and insufficient professionalism. If such issues are evident in the areas we were
able to review, it is reasonable to question what further mistakes lie elsewhere in the application. An expansion of this nature demands precision, transparency, and diligence—none of which are currently
evident. We urge the relevant authorities to conduct a thorough, independent review of all components of
this proposal before any approvals are considered.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The proposal suggests that dust levels will not significantly increase with the quarry expansion, citing the prevalence of unsealed roads in the area as a baseline condition. However, this rationale fails to reflect the reality experienced by nearby residents. We live on a sealed road and already endure substantial dust emissions originating from the existing quarry. With the expansion bringing operations closer—within approximately 200 metres of our home—we are extremely concerned about the inevitable increase in dust generated by excavation and vehicle movements in the new section.

One of our neighbours "Lapito House" has already faced operational restrictions on their business due to excessive dust emissions linked to current traffic volumes. Any rise in heavy vehicle traffic and active quarrying will unquestionably worsen air quality in the area.

Although the proposal states that operations will remain consistent post-expansion, it also notes that periods of intensified activity may occur during large orders. This directly implies surges in dust output, particularly concerning during dry conditions such as the recent drought, which has already left the local landscape highly vulnerable to dust mobilisation.

We are especially worried about the health risks to vulnerable residents, including a neighbour's two-year-old son whose asthma is triggered by airborne dust. This is not a hypothetical concern but a documented medical issue that will only be exacerbated by increased particulate matter in the air. Households in the area rely entirely on rainwater collection for drinking and household use. The influx of dust will contaminate roof catchment systems and subsequently pollute our water supply, putting our family's health at direct risk. There is also the concern of the build-up of dust on our solar panels, which will be exacerbated with the build and operation of the quarry extension.

The dust mitigation strategies outlined in the application are, in our view, insufficient and poorly suited to managing the scale and proximity of emissions that the expansion will create. Should the project proceed, we strongly urge the implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System—specifically, the use of TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI). These instruments should operate continuously during quarry activity, with daily results submitted to the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) and SafeWork SA. If particulate limits are exceeded, quarry operations must cease immediately until safe levels are restored.

We also note the precedent of community health decline and social displacement caused by dust issues at the Sellicks Hill Quarry. Families there have been forced to relocate due to unlivable conditions. At a

time when secure housing is already scarce, no resident should have to choose between their health and
their home.

For the wellbeing of our community and environment, we ask that these concerns be taken seriously and
addressed with the gravity they deserve.

4. Ongoing and Escalating Noise Concerns
We have reviewed the quarry operator's response regarding noise concerns, which asserts that operational noise levels will remain unchanged. However, our current experience contradicts this. We
already endure regular noise disturbances from the existing western pit, located approximately 300 metres from our residence. The proposed eastern pit would reduce this distance to just 200 metres, inevitably resulting in significantly increased noise impacts.

In the 13 years we have lived in this location, we have only been consulted once regarding blasting or noise issues. To our knowledge, none of our neighbours have received any formal consultation, despite
persistent disruption caused by quarry work and heavy vehicle traffic. The proposed 24-hour notice period
for blasting is inadequate for residents to make appropriate preparations, and based on previous experiences, we have little confidence that even this minimal notification will be consistently provided.

The current approach to managing community impact is unacceptable. We reject the notion that mere
notification constitutes meaningful mitigation. Instead, we call for genuine community engagement, including the establishment of a system where residents have input into scheduling blasting activities to
minimize disruption. A more accountable and collaborative approach is essential to protect the wellbeing
of those living in close proximity to the site.

5. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns
We currently have a direct view of the existing quarry, which we regard as a significant blemish on the landscape—a situation we have endured for many years. The proposed expansion would eliminate whatever remaining natural scenery we have, replacing it with extensive destruction of native vegetation
that still exists in the area.

The visual impact alone will have a profound and lasting negative effect on the scenic quality of the region. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical data raises serious doubts about
their effectiveness. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified around 60,000 abandoned and unreclaimed mines across the country, highlighting the widespread challenges of achieving successful
mine rehabilitation.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry, which remains a prominent eyesore despite ongoing

rehabilitation attempts. This precedent undermines confidence in the assurances given for the Whittlesea
site.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas clearly visible from South Road, severely impacting the character of the Myponga community and diminishing the region's aesthetic appeal. The rehabilitation
efforts are planned to occur years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. Considering the region's hot summers and recent low rainfall—as observed in 2024—newly planted vegetation will be particularly vulnerable without a detailed and robust
watering strategy. We request further clarification on how the survival of planted trees will be managed.
The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be applied, but it does not specify whether this includes
topsoil—a critical factor for successful vegetation growth. Topsoil is essential for providing nutrients, retaining moisture, and supporting adequate drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Additionally, during high-rainfall winters, the lack of ground cover such as mulch, grasses, or tree foliage
could lead to water runoff and increased erosion.

We also question the ecological recovery claims. The mature trees slated for removal are estimated to be
80 to 100 years old and serve as vital habitat for native fauna, especially bird species. It can take up to a
century for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even more general
ecological functions, such as habitat connectivity and canopy development, may require 20 years or more
to establish—leaving the area degraded for an extended period for the benefit of a single mining operation.

Overall, the rehabilitation plan lacks sufficient detail, depth, and evidence to support its likelihood of success. The environmental and visual costs to the region are substantial, and we strongly urge a comprehensive review of the long-term impacts before any approval is considered.

6. Surface Water Risks and Reservoir Contamination
The proposed eastern pit sits within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising serious environmental and public health concerns. A natural gully located just east of the expansion site channels
surface water directly into the reservoir's catchment area. Despite this clear hydrological connection, the
current Surface Water Flow Model included in the application fails to account for this critical risk.

We formally request that a revised and more comprehensive surface water flow model be commissioned.
The existing model terminates on the eastern boundary—precisely where runoff is most likely to enter the
catchment zone. This omission is deeply concerning, especially given the presence of causeway pipe infrastructure that directly connects this area to the Myponga Reservoir.

Any contaminated runoff entering this system has the potential to compromise South Australia's drinking water supply. The risk is further heightened by likely erosion from areas where vegetation will be cleared for spoil mounds, which will increase sediment transport during rain events. Nearby residents have already observed silt and sediment washing into their dam from the current quarry operations.

These environmental risks demand urgent and detailed reassessment, as they pose long-term threats to both the natural ecosystem and regional water security.

7. Cultural Heritage

This area holds cultural significance for the Kaurna People, as elements of their Dreaming stories are known to pass through the region. A document from the Yankalilla Historical Society identifies the site as a potential Aboriginal burial ground. It references a massacre that occurred in either 1850 or 1851, involving 14 First Nations individuals who are believed to be buried somewhere along what is now Nunn Road. This important historical and cultural information has not been acknowledged in the applicant's report.

Efforts are currently underway to contact Kaurna Elders and appropriate cultural heritage authorities to investigate and confirm the location and significance of the site.

Any disturbance to land with potential cultural or burial significance must be subject to thorough investigation and meaningful consultation with Aboriginal heritage organisations. Proceeding without addressing this could lead to irreversible damage to a site of deep historical, cultural, and spiritual importance.

8. Inadequate Ecological Assessment

Although an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it notably omits mention of a protected conservation area on a neighbour's property 'Burrangong' located approximately 400 metres from the proposed quarry expansion. This ecologically sensitive area is managed in collaboration with respected organisations, including The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Recent observations by a local birdwatching group recorded 33 different bird species in the area—significantly more than the 20 identified in the submitted report. Notably, the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, listed in the report as a vulnerable species, is regularly observed in large flocks traversing the area. Other vulnerable and rare species, such as the Flame Robin and Scarlet Robin, have also been sighted locally but were not recorded in the baseline survey.

This discrepancy raises serious concerns about the thoroughness and credibility of the ecological

assessment. Furthermore, Wedge-tailed Eagles and their young have been consistently observed hunting
and returning to the vicinity of the proposed expansion area, with over 30 sightings documented in the past month. These patterns suggest the likely presence of a nesting site, which should be protected under existing environmental legislation.

Given the omissions and underreporting of critical biodiversity indicators, we request that a new, comprehensive ecological assessment be undertaken by an independent consultant not selected by the
applicant. The significance of this area's biodiversity warrants an impartial and rigorous evaluation to ensure compliance with conservation obligations and environmental protection standards

9. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already a hazardous stretch, with
frequent accidents and road closures. When closures occur, traffic is diverted onto Forktree Road, which
is not designed to accommodate heavy vehicles, creating additional safety concerns.

Since the quarry began operations in 1988, traffic volumes on this road have increased significantly. With
ongoing regional growth, traffic is expected to rise further in the coming years. Currently, it states a single
site staff member is tasked with managing vehicles traveling at speeds up to 100 km/h around a sharp
bend, determining when it is safe for quarry trucks to enter or exit. This approach to traffic management is
inadequate given today's stringent safety standards and protocols.

In South Australia, trucks merging onto roads must complete the maneuver efficiently and without unnecessary delay, to avoid creating hazards for other road users. Trucks or heavy machinery under load
are unlikely to safely execute this merging requirement on this section of road. Given the risks, it is questionable that the quarry will be able to operate for another two decades without a serious incident.
If the project proceeds, it is imperative that the quarry operator fund and construct a dedicated slip lane to
ensure the safe access and egress of quarry vehicles. Similar safety measures have been mandated at
other quarry sites to mitigate risk.

10. Community Values
Myponga has become a sought-after destination for eco-tourism and nature-based activities. The region
is celebrated in Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials as a place "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst
stunning landscapes."

Our neighbour's accommodation business, located along the iconic Heysen Trail, plays a vital role in the

local eco-tourism economy by welcoming walkers and nature enthusiasts who value the area's tranquility
and unspoiled environment. The proposed quarry expansion, which would be visible from key tourist routes and situated near a vital water reservoir, directly undermines this reputation and poses a significant threat to the business. The increased presence of noise, dust, and industrial activity would disrupt the peaceful setting that guests seek, potentially making the property less desirable or even unviable as a tourism destination. Since the value of this accommodation is closely tied to the surrounding natural landscape and serenity, the expansion could result in a substantial loss of income,
damage to reputation, and a decline in local tourism appeal—impacts that must be carefully weighed in
any consideration of the proposal.

A community petition opposing the expansion has already gathered 120 signatures in just 17 days, with
efforts ongoing to reach 1,000. We are also aware of another petition with 300 signatures, that was not
submitted to the Department of Energy and Mining during the initial application process. This omission is
unacceptable and calls for a more thorough review of the proposal, as it raises concerns about potential
further oversights or errors.

11. Property Values

The proposed expansion of the quarry is expected to have a substantial and far-reaching impact on property values in the surrounding area. Research indicates that homes situated within 400 metres of an
operational quarry can suffer a decrease in market value by as much as 30%. For properties located within a broader radius of approximately one mile, reductions of around 19% are commonly observed.

These declines are primarily attributed to a combination of factors, including increased dust levels, persistent noise pollution, heightened traffic volumes, and the visual degradation of the natural landscape.

Such impacts not only diminish the enjoyment and livability of affected properties but also create a negative perception among potential buyers and investors. This issue extends beyond our immediate property, affecting our neighbours and the broader Myponga community. The cumulative effect could hinder local economic growth, reduce community wellbeing, and undermine the desirability of the area as
a place to live and invest.

12. Quality of Life

The proposed expansion poses serious risks to our health, lifestyle, and the future of our family. We chose to live here seeking peace, natural surroundings, and a strong sense of community. The increased
dust and noise from quarry activities undermine these core values and have a direct negative impact on
the health of some residents.

The emotional strain and financial consequences resulting from this development would be profound and
deeply distressing.

13. Increased Bushfire Risk

There is widespread and growing concern within the community regarding the heightened bushfire risk
posed by the intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting operations throughout the quarry site. This
concern is particularly acute given the history of fires already occurring on the specific hill where the quarry is located. There was a fire 2 years ago in the paddock where the quarry is located, right across the road from our cottage; we are unsure how the fire started but suspect it could have been from the quarry. Residents fear that with increased activity, the likelihood of a fire igniting and subsequently becoming uncontrollable will rise significantly. Considering the region's well-documented vulnerability to
bushfires, it is imperative that this risk is treated as a central and non-negotiable factor in the evaluation
and approval process of the quarry expansion.

In light of these concerns, we strongly urge the implementation of stringent maintenance and safety requirements for all heavy machinery operating on site. The existing equipment, much of which is aging,
must be subject to rigorous monthly inspections and maintenance checks, with detailed reports submitted
regularly. Oversight of these inspections should be conducted by the Department for Energy and Mining
(DEM) to ensure impartiality and compliance with safety standards. This oversight will help mitigate potential fire hazards caused by faulty or poorly maintained machinery.

Alternatively, we propose that the quarry operator be required to replace any outdated or unreliable machinery with new, modern equipment that meets the highest safety standards. Investing in brand-new

machinery would significantly reduce the risk of mechanical failure that could lead to sparks or overheating, thereby lowering the chance of accidental fire outbreaks.

This precautionary measure is essential not only to protect the quarry site but also to safeguard the broader community and environment from the devastating impacts of bushfires. Without such strict controls and proactive measures, the expansion presents an unacceptable risk to public safety and environmental security.

14. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was originally approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose
that aligned with the needs and capacity of the local area. Since that time, the region has developed a network of other substantial quarry operations, notably the Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarries, both of
which are situated at a safer distance from residential zones. These quarries are more than sufficient to
meet the current and foreseeable demand for extracted materials within the region.

Given this context, the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry seems unnecessary and unjustified.
The additional extraction capacity does not appear to respond to an unmet supply need but rather contributes to an excessive concentration of quarrying activity in a relatively small geographic area. This
raises significant concerns about the broader impacts on the community, particularly when considering
noise, dust, traffic, environmental degradation, and the strain on local infrastructure.

Moreover, this expansion reflects a troubling industry-wide pattern of overdevelopment where economic
interests take precedence over the well-being of local residents and environmental sustainability. The
cumulative effects of multiple quarries operating in close proximity have not been adequately accounted
for, nor have the potential long-term consequences on the quality of life and natural landscape been sufficiently considered.

We urge decision-makers to critically evaluate whether this expansion is truly necessary, and to weigh
heavily the extensive community impacts that are likely to result. It is imperative that future planning prioritize sustainable development and balance economic benefits with the health, safety, and preservation of the local environment and community character

Conclusion
The proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry presents significant and unacceptable risks that extend
far beyond mere industrial growth, impacting public health, environmental sustainability, cultural heritage,
road safety, and the unique character that defines the Myponga community. The cumulative effects of
increased industrial activity—encompassing dust pollution, elevated noise levels, intensified heavy vehicle traffic, and irreversible landscape degradation—pose a serious and multifaceted threat to the wellbeing of local residents as well as the fragile and diverse ecosystems that characterize this region.

This development proposal appears to disregard the deeply held concerns of residents and local stakeholders, many of whom rely on the tranquility, natural beauty, and ecological integrity of this area not
only for their livelihoods but also for their mental health and cultural connections. The peaceful

environment and unspoiled nature of Myponga are intrinsic to the community's identity and quality of life,
and any significant disruption would fundamentally alter this. Proceeding with this expansion without a
thorough, transparent, and scientifically robust impact assessment, coupled with meaningful and ongoing
community consultation, risks causing damage that is both profound and irreversible.

Furthermore, the long-term social, environmental, and economic consequences of approving this proposal without adequate scrutiny must be carefully considered. The loss of biodiversity, the

deterioration of air and water quality, the undermining of cultural heritage sites, and the increased safety
hazards posed by heavier traffic flows all contribute to an unacceptable cost to the community and environment. It is essential that any decision about this proposal prioritizes sustainable development and
respects the voices of those directly affected.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Department of Energy and Mining to reject this application unless and until a full, independent, and comprehensive review is undertaken. This review must include detailed impact modeling and assessments carried out by impartial experts, as well as genuine and meaningful
engagement with local residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, public health professionals, and other relevant stakeholders. Only through such an inclusive and rigorous process can
a fair and informed decision be reached.

We stand firmly opposed to the proposed expansion and remain committed to advocating tirelessly for the
protection of our community, our environment, and our way of life. Our efforts are motivated not only by a
desire to safeguard current residents but also by a responsibility to preserve this unique region for future
generations. The preservation of Myponga's natural and cultural heritage is paramount, and we call on
decision-makers to uphold these values by ensuring that this proposal is subject to the highest standards
of scrutiny and community involvement before any approval is granted.

Sincerely,



To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to formally object to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion, driven by serious environmental concerns for the Fleurieu Peninsula's ecological integrity. As regular visitors to the Myponga area, we have witnessed the irreplaceable natural beauty and delicate environmental balance that makes this region extraordinary.

Earlier this year, we joined other environmental advocates in signing a petition opposing this quarry expansion. Our concerns have deepened as we've learned more about the potential ecological devastation this development could cause.

The Fleurieu Peninsula represents a vital sanctuary of biodiversity that has evolved over millennia. This quarry expansion threatens to fragment critical wildlife corridors, destroy native vegetation, and disrupt the interconnected ecosystems that sustain countless species. The industrial operations would introduce harmful noise pollution, dust contamination, and heavy machinery traffic that could permanently alter the environmental conditions native wildlife depends upon.

The potential impact on the Myponga Reservoir is particularly alarming. This critical water resource supports not only human communities but also riparian ecosystems and wetland habitats throughout the watershed. Any compromise to water quality could trigger cascading effects across the entire ecosystem, from aquatic organisms to migratory birds and native mammals.

The expansion would also eliminate important carbon sequestration capacity at a time when we desperately need to preserve natural carbon sinks. The native vegetation earmarked for destruction represents decades of carbon storage, while the loss of tree canopy would reduce the landscape's climate resilience. In our current environmental crisis, destroying habitats for resource extraction represents a devastating step backward from urgently needed conservation action.

The region's sustainable tourism economy demonstrates how economic prosperity can coexist with environmental preservation. Unlike extractive industries that create short-term profits through permanent environmental destruction, ecotourism provides lasting economic benefits while protecting natural heritage for future generations.

Despite community engagement processes, the overwhelming environmental concerns raised by residents and conservation groups appear inadequately addressed. The applicant's responses fail to demonstrate genuine environmental stewardship or acknowledge the irreversible ecological damage this expansion would cause.

This proposal demands the most rigorous environmental assessment possible, including comprehensive biodiversity surveys, hydrological studies, and climate impact analysis. Given this ecosystem's sensitivity, precautionary principles must apply, requiring the applicant to prove no significant environmental harm will occur.

Once these irreplaceable ecosystems are destroyed, authentic restoration becomes impossible within human timescales. The permanent loss of biodiversity, soil integrity, and ecosystem services would represent an unconscionable betrayal of our responsibility to future

generations who deserve to inherit landscapes where natural beauty and ecological significance are protected rather than sacrificed for short-term resource extraction.

We respectfully urge that these environmental objections receive serious consideration and that precautionary principles guide all decisions regarding this proposal.

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1. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” There is a section of the Heysen Trail located adjacent to this quarry expansion, many walkers who choose to stay in this area for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

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2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area’s scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. We would like a further outline of how keeping the tree alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive.

Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

We also question the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

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3. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention work that the owners of Burrangong are doing on a section of their farm to protect and conserve an area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rest regularly attracts groups of birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 identified in this report. Two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, there are often flocks of these birds flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

There are reports that there are Wedge-tailed Eagles observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. We've recorded over 30 sightings in the past month, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

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4. Noise Pollution

We have reviewed the quarry operator’s response to noise concerns, which claims that operations will remain unchanged. However there are businesses and residents currently experience disruptive noise from the western pit. The proposed eastern pit will bring that noise significantly closer and will increase noise exponentially.

It sounds like hardly any of the resident have ever been consulted about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting. 24 hours’ notice is insufficient warning for people who live and work in the area. Some of the residents who have lived in the area have never had any contact by the quarry operator in regards to noise, 1 neighbour has

contacted once about noise in 13 years. A small business owner has an accommodation business that is already affected as they run wellness retreats, as small accommodation business which is vital to the tourism sector in this area, they depends on the peaceful environment. Many of their guests stay with them to seek out a quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

Although they are promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. We don't accept this as a solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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5. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The concern is the anticipated increase in airborne dust due to the quarry expansion. While there are dirt roads in the area, most of them are quiet back roads, with minimal traffic—primarily local residents. One of our businesses in the area has already faced trading restrictions due to dust emissions related to traffic volumes. An increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation will undeniably worsen dust conditions.

There are many families in this area who have close family members who suffer from dust related issues, an increase in dust would make this area unliveable to some and to others they wouldn't be able to visit loved ones.

Although we've been told operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. We recently experienced a drought, leaving the land extremely dry. As the mine expands the resulting dust will only intensify.

Households in that area, rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source, putting their family's health at risk.

We have found all the solutions put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed, we request the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork and quarry operations should cease immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing.

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6. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly

into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

We request a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

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7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is happening and popularityof the Fleurier Peninsular as a whole, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

We don't believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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8. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. Residents are in the process of contacting

Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage group.

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9. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

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10. Property Values

The expansion will significantly reduce property values:

- Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
- Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
- Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.

This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

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11. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request that there are strict maintenance requirements and reports placed on the aging heavy machinery used in the quarry, dictated and overseen by DEM on a monthly basis. Another option is, brand new machinery is to be purchased by the operator to ensure it safe working order.

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12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

As someone who supports sustainable tourism and has experienced the unique appeal of the Myponga region, I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. This development presents unacceptable and far-reaching risks—not only to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, and road safety—but also to the very qualities that make this area a valued destination for visitors.

The tranquillity, natural beauty, and rural charm of Myponga are central to its tourism economy. Increased industrial activity—including dust, noise, heavy vehicle traffic, and landscape degradation—would undermine the visitor experience, deter return travel, and damage the reputation of local tourism businesses that depend on a clean, peaceful environment.

This proposal overlooks the voices of local tourism operators, residents, and visitors who treasure this region for its serenity and natural assets. The consequences of proceeding without transparent impact assessment and meaningful consultation with the community, cultural representatives, and environmental experts would be irreversible.

I respectfully urge the decision-makers to decline this application until a full, independent review is undertaken, and all stakeholders are genuinely heard.

I stand with the local community in opposing this development and in advocating for the protection of Myponga's natural character, tourism economy, and way of life—for the benefit of future generations and all who seek to enjoy this special place.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry, based on its likely long-term damage to the local environment, biodiversity, and sustainable tourism economy.

I'm a renewable energy engineer and sustianbility specialist. I am the daughter of a coal miner and the granddaughter of one of the builders of Snowy Hydro. career path, one that is regenerative and not physically destructive, both for communities and for individuals. I have dedicated the last 20 years to being part of Australia's future as a global green leader. Mining has its place in that future but not at the expense of biodiversity and community. The energy and mining industries recognize we can no longer continue business as usual. Industry leaders recognize we must discern essential mining (eg. critical minerals) from non-essential mining (eg. Sandstone). We must engage in genuine community consultation and put community needs ahead of BAU projections. To fail to do so will result in us repeating the exploitative coal mining playbook in an era when we cannot afford to make those same mistakes.

A quick scan of the 450 page application for Whittlesea quarry expansion is telling. For this to have made it to public consultation suggests an urgent need for stronger strategic directions and planning clause updates to keep climate action at the fore of government's duties.

The study notes that a EPBC Act Protected Matters Search identified 47 listed threatened native fauna species on the proposed site. It also misleadingly wrote that "no critical habitats exist within the Site" however immediately below that most species found are noted as "species habitat likely to occur within area".

Additionally the report notes dwellings within 400m of an eco-tourism site that provides accomodation. It is clear that Mr Haywood and Whittlesea undertook no consultation or even basic desktop research on their neighbours.

The proposal to simply screen the site with a few tree is laughable. The impacts on eco-tourism are fatal. I worked with a major sandstone quarry site in NSW in 2017 to successfully switch operations from diesel power to solar power.

Mr Haywood's report notes " Potential noise sources from the Site include extraction operations, crushing and screening, load and haul activities, topsoil stripping, rehabilitation earthworks and delivery truck movements" occuring from 7am to 6pm. Sunrise to sunset.

The noise from the site operations required us to wear earplugs or earmuffs while on site. The noise alone will critical eradicate species from the area.

A quarry cannot co- exist with eco-tourism. South Australia must decide where its future economic prosperity lies. The mining industry can transition, eco-tourism cannot.

As someone who recently stayed at Heysens Rest, I experienced the profound value this landscape offers. Firstly as a **quiet** retreat, and more importantly as an intact ecosystem supporting native flora, fauna. Silence and stillness is an increasingly rare and lucrative tourism offering as our world becomes industrialised.

The area immediately next to Mr Haywood's proposed open cut pit is not just a pleasant backdrop; it is a living museum with intrinsic value which sustains a thriving nature-based tourism sector. These natural assets are our ancient living history. Mr Haywood proposes to disappear them in a matter of months.

As the report states, the proposed quarry expansion will replace this ecological sanctuary with industrial level noise, dust and heavy machinery. Extractive operations in rural settings are incompatible with an area that has built a growing local economy and identity around conservation, recreation, and eco-tourism.

Beyond the direct environmental impacts, there is a deeper issue: this development prioritises short-term extractive gain over long-term environmental stewardship. It would undermine the region's potential to serve as a model for sustainable land use where tourism, conservation, and community values work together. Instead, the expansion would risk driving away visitors and condemning the region to a similar fate to former mining towns before it.

What's equally concerning is the lack of adequate assessment of these broader, cumulative impacts. Tourism-related businesses like Heysens Rest are particularly vulnerable to changes in environmental quality and visitor perception, yet the proposal is silent on these impacts.

I respectfully urge the DEM to reject this application. This is a defining moment for Myponga to choose a future that is aligned with eco-tourism and prioritising our most valuable valuable assets.

I've included additional notes below in support of the owners of Heysen's Rest.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted] Noise Pollution

Currently the accommodation is experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be

notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

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The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350 meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

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Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

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Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

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Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

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11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry due to serious concerns about its devastating impact on local tourism and the destruction of our community's precious natural amenity.

Personal Experience As a recent guest at Heysens Rest, I was profoundly moved by the accommodation's peaceful bush setting. The tranquil environment offered exactly the kind of healing experience that people desperately seek when escaping the relentless pressures of urban life. This remarkable quiet atmosphere is not just an amenity—it's the heart and soul of what makes rural tourism in this area so special and irreplaceable.

Primary Concerns The proposed quarry extension would bring destructive industrial operations dangerously close to cherished tourism facilities. I am deeply troubled by the prospect of increased noise pollution, choking dust clouds, and endless heavy vehicle traffic destroying the visitor experience that so many treasure. These industrial impacts would shatter the peaceful character that serves as the vital economic lifeline for local accommodation providers who have worked tirelessly to build something beautiful.

Assessment Issues While community consultation has occurred, I am frustrated that critical concerns regarding long-term tourism devastation and environmental destruction appear to have been inadequately addressed. The delicate relationship between our area's natural beauty and its tourism economy demands far more serious consideration and protection.

Urgent Request I passionately urge decision-makers to recognize what we stand to lose forever. The unique tranquility of this environment represents something truly precious that, once destroyed by industrial expansion, can never be recovered. Please don't allow the irreversible destruction of established businesses and our community's natural heritage on our watch.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

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We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,



[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

We object to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry extension as regular guests of Heysen's Rest accommodation. This location's quiet, natural environment is essential to the rural tourism experience that draws visitors seeking escape from urban areas.

The proposed quarry extension poses an incompatible land use that threatens established tourism businesses. The noise, dust, and industrial activity would destroy the peaceful setting that forms the foundation of the local tourism economy, potentially eliminating the viability of accommodation providers like Heysen's Rest.

While community engagement has occurred, many concerns raised during consultation remain unaddressed. Our review indicates the proposal lacks adequate assessment across several critical areas.

The quarry extension would irreversibly damage both the natural environment and the tourism businesses that depend on this area's tranquil character. We urge the planning authority to reject this proposal to protect the established rural tourism economy and preserve this unique natural setting.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

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[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

We hereby submit our formal objection to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion on environmental grounds. As regular visitors to the Myponga area and Fleurieu Peninsula, we maintain serious concerns regarding the ecological impacts this development would impose upon this environmentally significant region.

The proposed expansion would cause irreversible biodiversity loss through habitat fragmentation, native vegetation destruction, and industrial pollution that would permanently compromise conditions essential for native species survival. The scale of ecological disruption cannot be justified given the permanent environmental damage that would result.

Of particular concern is the potential impact upon the Myponga Reservoir and watershed systems. This critical water resource supports complex ecosystems whose degradation would have cascading effects throughout regional environmental networks, affecting aquatic organisms, migratory species, and dependent wildlife populations.

The destruction of established carbon sequestration systems during climate emergency represents poor environmental stewardship. The targeted native vegetation contains decades of stored carbon, while canopy loss would diminish landscape climate resilience, contradicting current conservation imperatives.

Despite consultation processes, environmental concerns raised by community members and conservation organizations remain inadequately addressed. The applicant's responses fail to demonstrate sufficient environmental due diligence or acknowledgment of irreversible ecological consequences.

The permanent nature of ecosystem destruction demands application of precautionary principles requiring comprehensive environmental impact assessment and proof of minimal ecological harm. We respectfully submit that environmental preservation must take precedence over commercial interests in this determination.

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1. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” There is a section of the Heysen Trail located adjacent to this quarry expansion, many walkers who choose to stay in this area for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. We would like a further outline of how keeping the tree alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

We also question the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

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While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention work that the owners of Burrangong are doing on a section of their farm to protect and conserve an area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This

area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rest regularly attracts groups of birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 identified in this report. Two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, there are often flocks of these birds flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

There are reports that there are Wedge-tailed Eagles observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. We've recorded over 30 sightings in the past month, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

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We have reviewed the quarry operator's response to noise concerns, which claims that operations will remain unchanged. However there are businesses and residents currently experience disruptive noise from the western pit. The proposed eastern pit will bring that noise significantly closer and will increase noise exponentially.

It sounds like hardly any of the resident have ever been consulted about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting. 24 hours' notice is insufficient warning for people who live and work in the area. Some of the residents who have lived in the area have never had any contact by the quarry operator in regards to noise, 1 neighbour has contacted once about noise in 13 years. A small business owner has an accommodation business that is already affected as they run wellness retreats, as small accommodation business which is vital to the tourism sector in this area, they depends on the peaceful environment. Many of their guests stay with them to seek out a quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

Although they are promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. We don't accept this as a solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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5. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The concern is the anticipated increase in airborne dust due to the quarry expansion. While there are dirt roads in the area, most of them are quiet back roads, with minimal traffic—primarily local residents. One of our businesses in the area has already faced trading restrictions due to dust emissions related to traffic volumes. An increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation will undeniably worsen dust conditions.

There are many families in this area who have close family members who suffer from dust related issues, an increase in dust would make this area unliveable to some and to others they wouldn't be able to visit loved ones.

Although we've been told operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. We recently experienced a drought, leaving the land extremely dry. As the mine expands the resulting dust will only intensify.

Households in that area, rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source, putting their family's health at risk.

We have found all the solutions put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed, we request the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork and quarry operations should cease immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing.

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6. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

We request a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

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7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is happening and popularityof the Fleurier Peninsular as a whole, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

We don't believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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8. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. Residents are in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage group.

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9. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

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10. Property Values

The expansion will significantly reduce property values:

- Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
- Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
- Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.

This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

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11. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region's bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request that there are strict maintenance requirements and reports placed on the aging heavy machinery used in the quarry, dictated and overseen by DEM on a monthly basis. Another option is, brand new machinery is to be purchased by the operator to ensure it safe working order.

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12. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

As someone who supports sustainable tourism and has experienced the unique appeal of the Myponga region, I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. This development presents unacceptable and far-reaching risks—not only to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, and road safety—but also to the very qualities that make this area a valued destination for visitors.

The tranquillity, natural beauty, and rural charm of Myponga are central to its tourism economy. Increased industrial activity—including dust, noise, heavy vehicle traffic, and landscape degradation—would undermine the visitor experience, deter return travel, and

damage the reputation of local tourism businesses that depend on a clean, peaceful environment.

This proposal overlooks the voices of local tourism operators, residents, and visitors who treasure this region for its serenity and natural assets. The consequences of proceeding without transparent impact assessment and meaningful consultation with the community, cultural representatives, and environmental experts would be irreversible.

I respectfully urge the decision-makers to decline this application until a full, independent review is undertaken, and all stakeholders are genuinely heard.

I stand with the local community in opposing this development and in advocating for the protection of Myponga's natural character, tourism economy, and way of life—for the benefit of future generations and all who seek to enjoy this special place.

[redacted]

To Whom It May Concern,

We formally object to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion on environmental grounds. As frequent visitors to the Myponga area and broader Fleurieu Peninsula, we have deep concerns about the ecological damage this development would cause to one of South Australia's most precious natural regions.

The Fleurieu Peninsula's biodiversity and fragile ecosystems have developed over thousands of years. Industrial quarrying would fragment wildlife corridors, destroy native vegetation, and introduce noise pollution and dust contamination that permanently disrupts the environmental conditions essential for native species survival. The scale of habitat destruction cannot be justified when weighed against the irreversible loss of biodiversity.

Our greatest concern centers on threats to the Myponga Reservoir and surrounding watershed. This critical water resource supports complex riparian ecosystems and wetland habitats. Any degradation of water quality or quantity would cascade throughout the ecosystem, affecting everything from aquatic organisms to migratory birds and native mammals that depend on this pristine water source.

At a time of climate crisis, destroying natural carbon sinks represents environmental vandalism. The native vegetation targeted for clearing stores decades of sequestered carbon, while the loss of tree canopy reduces landscape resilience to extreme weather and rising temperatures. We should be expanding, not eliminating, our natural climate defenses.

The region's sustainable tourism economy proves that environmental protection and economic prosperity can coexist. Ecotourism provides lasting benefits while preserving natural heritage, unlike extractive industries that generate short-term profits through permanent environmental destruction.

Despite community consultation, environmental concerns raised by residents and conservation groups remain inadequately addressed. The applicant's responses demonstrate neither genuine environmental stewardship nor acknowledgment of the irreversible ecological damage this expansion would cause.

Once destroyed, these ecosystems cannot be authentically restored within human lifespans. The permanent loss of biodiversity, soil integrity, and ecosystem services betrays our responsibility to future generations who deserve landscapes where natural significance is protected rather than sacrificed for resource extraction.

This proposal requires the most rigorous environmental impact assessment, applying precautionary principles that demand proof of no significant environmental harm. We urge that environmental protection take precedence over short-term economic interests in this decision.

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The tranquillity, natural beauty, and rural charm of Myponga are central to its tourism economy. Increased industrial activity—including dust, noise, heavy vehicle traffic, and

landscape degradation—would undermine the visitor experience, deter return travel, and damage the reputation of local tourism businesses that depend on a clean, peaceful environment.

This proposal overlooks the voices of local tourism operators, residents, and visitors who treasure this region for its serenity and natural assets. The consequences of proceeding without transparent impact assessment and meaningful consultation with the community, cultural representatives, and environmental experts would be irreversible.

I respectfully urge the decision-makers to decline this application until a full, independent review is undertaken, and all stakeholders are genuinely heard.

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[redacted])

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 6 June 2025 4:06 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: [redacted] Whittlesea Quarry Concerns
Attachments: [redacted]

You don't often get email [redacted] Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

We live [redacted], we are writing to strongly oppose the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As residents, agricultural business and small tourism business owners living [redacted] from the proposed expansion site, we are deeply concerned about the serious and far-reaching impacts this development would have on our health, our children's health, our way of life, and the long-term viability of our home and livelihood.

We chose to settle and invest in this area for its clean air, natural beauty, and peaceful environment—qualities that are not only essential to our family's wellbeing but also to the success of our truffle farm and tourism-based business. Visitors seek out this region for its tranquillity, connection to nature, and premium food and wine experiences. Dust, noise pollution, and the constant presence of heavy industrial traffic directly threaten the appeal and function of both our tourism offering and agricultural operations.

The health implications of increased dust and airborne pollutants are particularly distressing. The risk to respiratory health, especially for our children and vulnerable populations, cannot be overstated. For a crop like truffles, which depends on a delicate underground ecosystem and clean, undisturbed soil conditions, any shift in air or water quality caused by quarry operations with emphasis on dust settlement would have devastating effects. Our farming practices rely on environmental stability—something this expansion would jeopardise.

We have previously raised these concerns during the applicant's community engagement phase, but unfortunately, the responses provided did not address the seriousness of the issues. Since then, additional risks have come to light, reinforcing our belief that this proposal has not undergone the level of scrutiny or independent oversight necessary for a project of this scale.

We urge the Department of Energy and Mining (DEM) to weigh the long-term costs to public health, local agriculture, and the small businesses that contribute to the Fleurieu Peninsula's growing reputation as a premium destination. This expansion stands to degrade not only the environment we all share, but the community's ability to thrive within it.

For our family, our business, and the future of the region, we respectfully request that this proposal be rejected unless a thorough, independent review is undertaken—one that prioritises the health of the community and the sustainability of the industries that depend on this land.

Section 9 of the Mining Act 1971 – Exempt Land

The residence of which our family lives is 350m from the proposed Mining Lease. Section 9 of the *Mining Act 1971* provides that land that is situated within the prescribed distance of a building or structure used as a place of residence will be exempt from the authorised operations in pursuant of this Act and, unless the

benefit of exemption is waived under section 9AA, no claim lease or licence will authorise operations on such land. The prescribed distance in relation to advanced exploration operations or any operations for the recovery of extractive minerals is 400 meters.

We will **not** be signing a waiver under section 9AA.

There is a neighbour whose residence is approximately 200 metres from the proposed Mining Lease whom we understand the residents there also will not be granting a waiver under Section 9AA.

Following legal advice, we believe the proposed Mining Lease cannot lawfully be granted by Department of Energy and Mining, because it would constitute a very clear breach of Section 9 of the *Mining Act 1971* and would be unlawful.

We have measured the distance between our residence and the residence of SR13 our neighbours at 6 Forktree Road, who require an exemption, this distance is 860 meters, with the distance of 400 meters for both exemptions leaves a distance of 60 meters for the proposed quarrying operations to take place. Furthermore the distance between their residence and our accommodation buildings is 845 meters, equalling 45 meters for mining operations to take place. After Fire breaks and sufficient spoil mounds for noise spillage, around the perimeter of the quarry, we believe this would make the distance unfeasible and unviable for a quarrying activities to go ahead.

We are also concerned with the distance to our truffle orchard, as a part of the property that is cultivated and used as an orchard, for our business where we sell truffles to businesses in the Fleuieu Peninsular. The boundary of our Orchard is 330 meters from the edge of the quarrying operations, this is considered cultivated land/ Orchard which would be exempt land and the distance would be measured from the boundary line of the property.

Concerns Regarding Application Integrity and Accuracy

Our review of the Whittlesea Quarry expansion application, though limited by time and resources, has revealed a troubling number of inconsistencies, omissions, and technical errors. The frequency and seriousness of these issues raise fundamental concerns about the accuracy, transparency, and reliability of the entire submission.

A. Irregular Handling of Mineral Claim MC4569 and EML 5542

A particularly serious concern involves the pegging out of the Mineral Claim MC4569 directly over EML 5542. This is not standard practice. Typically, a new mineral claim is pegged independently, rather than overlapping an existing, active extractive mineral lease. This deviation from established protocol either indicates a misunderstanding of regulatory procedure or, more concerningly, a deliberate attempt to limit the number of affected residences within required buffer zones. Either possibility reflects poorly on the application's integrity. We have been looking into distances and are unsure where the exact edge of EML 5542 extends to, but we think it is within 400 meters of the shed on SR3 land, meaning another property with Exempt land that would require an exemption.

B. Omission of Community Feedback

Equally alarming is the exclusion of a community petition of almost 300 signatures—submitted within the designated consultation period by a neighbouring resident—from the formal application materials presented to the Department for Energy and Mining. These concerns were submitted timely and in good faith, their omission represents a serious breach of process. This calls into question the applicant's commitment to transparency and community engagement.

C. Misinterpretation of "Drag-Out" Traffic

There also appears to be a misinterpretation in the application regarding the term "drag-out traffic." The applicant seems to define it as debris left on the roadway by quarry vehicles. However, in traffic safety

contexts, "drag-out" refers to the merging behaviour of trucks entering roadways—particularly the danger posed when this manoeuvre is executed too slowly or over an extended distance.

This error reveals a lack of technical understanding and has direct implications for road safety. As local residents, we have observed repeated traffic incidents and near-misses on the section of road adjacent to the quarry. We strongly question the ability of heavily loaded trucks to safely merge into high-speed traffic under current road conditions. This matter is further addressed in our “Traffic Safety and Infrastructure” section.

D. Inaccuracies and Inconsistencies

The application states ‘The southern fringe of the Myponga Reservoir is located on the northern side of Main South Road. The Reservoir is separated from MC 4569 by dense native vegetation on the northern side of Main South Road. SA Water catchment area is located to the east of the MC 4569. This distance is between 350 - 400 meters from the edge of the expansion.

There are many inconsistencies when it come to distances that have been measured. Starting with the distances from different residencies to the quarry site. As stated above SR3 might be exempt land due to its proximity to EML 5542. Also the distance measured from the residence of SR13 to the quarrying site, says 260 meters in the application, where the distance is 200 meters.

E. Need for Independent Oversight

Given the scale of this proposed expansion, it is not appropriate to rely solely on data and analysis provided by the applicant and their consultants. Key areas—including dust emissions and health impacts, surface water and contaminated runoff, First nations cultural heritage, native flora and fauna, noise pollution, bushfire risk, and community and tourism — require independent evaluation by qualified, third-party experts to ensure objectivity and public trust.

Conclusion

Despite our limited time to review the full proposal, the volume and severity of the issues we have identified point to a systemic lack of accuracy, diligence, and professional rigour in the preparation of this application. If these flaws exist in the sections we were able to examine, it is reasonable to suspect additional errors elsewhere in the documentation.

An expansion of this magnitude demands a standard of transparency, technical precision, and community respect that this application currently does not meet. We strongly urge the relevant authorities to halt any progression of this proposal until a comprehensive, independent review has been conducted across all components.

Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

Our primary concern is the anticipated increase in airborne dust due to the quarry expansion. While we live on a dirt road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily local residents. One of our neighbours ‘Lapito House’ has already faced trading restrictions to their business due to dust emissions related to traffic volumes. An increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation will undeniably worsen dust conditions.

Although we've been told operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. We recently experienced a drought, leaving the land extremely dry. As the mine gets 350 meters closer to our property, the resulting dust will only intensify.

We are especially concerned about the health of our two-year-old son, who suffers from asthma triggered by dust exposure. He has been prescribed a Ventolin inhaler and is under the care of physicians at Aldinga Day and Night Surgery. (Medical documentation attached.)

Our household, like others in the area, relies solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source, putting our family's health at risk. Along with the effect the increased dust will have on our solar panels.

One of the most serious concerns with the proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion is the increased risk of exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust. These particles are extremely fine—about 100 times smaller than a grain of sand—and are released during activities such as crushing and transporting silica-containing rock.

According to the Cancer Council Australia and other reputable health authorities, prolonged inhalation of RCS is linked to severe health outcomes, including lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease. These risks are especially alarming for children and others living near the site, who may unknowingly inhale this dust over time.

Given the well-documented dangers of silica dust and the quarry's proximity to homes, this expansion poses an unacceptable public health risk and requires rigorous reassessment and stricter regulatory oversight.

We have found all the solutions put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed, we request the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork and quarry operations should cease immediately if limits are exceeded.

Taking into consideration the monthly wind roses in the application, with residencies surrounding the quarry from all sides, which receive wind almost all year round from all different directions. We need to know the location where they are going to set up these monitoring locations, it seems like the quarry will need to set up dust monitoring locations at multiple residences, as well as inside and around the quarry perimeter.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing.

Noise Pollution

We have reviewed the quarry operator's response to noise concerns, which claims that operations will remain unchanged. However, we currently experience disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from our home and will increase noise significantly.

This directly affects our wellness retreat and accommodation business, which depends on the peaceful environment. We host an average of 500 guests annually, many of whom seek out our quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

24 hours' notice is insufficient for rescheduling retreats or managing bookings, some of which are made **six** months in advance. Some of the neighbours who have lived in the area have never had any contact by the quarry operator in regards to noise, 1 neighbour has had 1 notice for noise in 13 years. Although we are promised to be notified of blasting, we have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. We don't accept this as a solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

We request that the quarry operator installs and pays for triple glazed windows for all buildings on our property, including the accommodation structures which are all within 400m of the quarry. Along with any residencies within 500 meters radius of the quarrying site. Aswell as building the spoil mounds to the specifications required to deflect noise for residencies in such close proximity.

Surface Water and Contaminated Runoff

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

We request a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

The sediment retention dams and small dams that are being used to catch runoff heading in the direction of the reservoir, but we see these as an insufficient size for the amount of runoff that could be generated, causing them to overflow and then the contaminated runoff going directly into the catchment.

First Nations Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. We received a document recently from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Our property regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 reported in the Report. Two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, we often see flocks of these birds flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site. We've recorded over 30 sightings in the past month, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

We are in talks with Conservation SA, as to which independent ecologist is best to come back to do a thorough Ecological Baseline Survey. Which we will require access to the quarrying site for this to be conducted.

Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately **60,000**

abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. We would like a further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes **topsoil**—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

We also question the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are **80–100 years old** and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take **up to 100 years** for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take **20 years or more**—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road adjacent to the quarry entrance is already known for being dangerous, with a history of accidents and periodic closures. When these closures occur, traffic is redirected onto Forktree Road—a route not engineered for heavy traffic situations — raising further safety concerns for both residents and road users.

Since quarry operations commenced in 1988, traffic on this stretch of road has grown substantially. With continued development in the surrounding region, that growth is expected to accelerate. Despite this, the current traffic management strategy relies on a single staff member stationed at the site, responsible for gauging safe entry and exit times for quarry trucks on a road where vehicles regularly travel at 100 km/h around a sharp bend. This method falls well short of modern road safety expectations and regulatory best practices.

South Australian road rules require trucks to merge into traffic swiftly and without impeding the flow, especially on high-speed roads. Heavily loaded quarry vehicles are unlikely to meet this standard safely on this segment of Main South Road. The potential for a serious accident is significant, and it is difficult to envision the quarry operating safely under current access conditions for another 19 years.

To address this, any approval of the proposed expansion must include a requirement for the quarry operator and land owner to fully fund and construct a dedicated slip lane for safe vehicle entry and exit. Other quarries with similar traffic risks have been subject to such conditions, and this site should be held to the same standard to ensure public safety is not compromised.

Quality of Life

We moved to this area just eight months ago, drawn by its peaceful environment, beautiful natural setting, and the strong sense of community that felt ideal for raising our family. As people who value health, connection, and a calm lifestyle, the proposed quarry expansion is incredibly concerning to us.

The increase in dust, noise, and industrial activity would not only disrupt the serenity we came here for but also pose serious risks to the wellbeing of our children and other families in the community. We worry about what this means for our family's health and future—and for the kind of life we hoped to build here.

The emotional toll and potential financial impact of this development are overwhelming. It's distressing to think that the safe and nurturing environment we chose for our family could be permanently altered. We urge decision-makers to consider how deeply this will affect the families who have made this place their home.

Community and Tourism

As both a resident of Myponga and the owner of a small tourism-focused business, I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. Myponga has become a sought-after destination for eco-tourism and nature-based experiences, proudly featured in Fleurieu Peninsula tourism materials as a region "where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes."

Our own livelihood—and that of our neighbours—relies on the very qualities that make this area special: peace, natural beauty, and a clean, quiet environment. Our tourism accommodation business, located along the iconic Heysen Trail, is a popular stop for hikers and nature lovers who come here to disconnect and enjoy the serenity. The proposed expansion, which would be clearly visible from well-travelled tourist routes and sit dangerously close to a protected water reservoir, threatens to undermine everything that draws people to this region.

The increase in noise, dust, and quarrying activity would disrupt the tranquillity that guests specifically seek, putting at risk the viability of tourism operations like ours. These businesses depend on the surrounding landscape and its peaceful character—without them, the appeal disappears. A drop in visitor numbers would lead not only to significant financial loss but also to a broader decline in Myponga's reputation as a nature-based tourism hub.

Public concern is growing rapidly. A community petition opposing the expansion has already collected 120 signatures in just 17 days, and we are working toward gathering 1,000. In addition, we are aware of a separate petition—signed by close to 300 people—that was never submitted to the Department for Energy and Mining as part of the original application process. This omission is deeply troubling and highlights the need for a more transparent and thorough review of the proposal. If this is just one example of overlooked input, it raises broader concerns about the accuracy and integrity of the entire application.

We have contacted our guests and petition signers to help out with submissions against this application. Most of them have been sent in but I have been sent a few more which I have attached to this email.

Property Values

The expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry is likely to result in significant and lasting consequences for local property values. Studies have shown that residential properties located within 400 metres of an active quarry can experience a drop in value of up to 30%. Even properties situated within a one-mile radius are not immune, with typical value reductions averaging around 19%. These decreases are largely driven by the

environmental and aesthetic disturbances associated with quarry operations—such as elevated dust levels, continuous noise, increased heavy vehicle traffic, and the loss of scenic views.

These factors not only erode quality of life for existing residents but also make the area less appealing to prospective buyers. The resulting downturn in market desirability could have a ripple effect, weakening property values across Myponga and neighbouring areas. This trend poses a serious threat to local economic resilience, as well as to the long-term wellbeing and stability of the community.

Bushfire Risk

Community anxiety is steadily growing over the elevated bushfire risk associated with the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. This concern stems from the anticipated increase in blasting and heavy machinery use across the site—activities known to generate heat, sparks, and flammable debris. The fear is especially pronounced given the area's history: just two years ago, a fire broke out in the paddock where the quarry sits, directly across the road from our cottage. While the cause of that fire remains unclear, many in the community believe it may have originated from quarry operations. With more intensive activity now planned, residents are understandably worried that another fire could ignite—one that may not be containable.

Myponga is already identified as a region with high bushfire vulnerability, and any development here must take that risk seriously. Fire safety cannot be treated as an afterthought; it must be central to the decision-making process for this project.

To address this, we call for the immediate introduction of strict maintenance and operational safety protocols for all machinery used on-site. The heavy equipment currently in use—much of it aging—must undergo detailed monthly servicing and inspection, with comprehensive reports submitted and reviewed by the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM). Independent oversight is critical to ensure transparency, adherence to regulations, and the early detection of potential fire hazards.

As an alternative, we recommend that the quarry operator phase out outdated machinery in favour of newer, more reliable equipment that adheres to the latest fire safety standards. Upgrading to modern machinery would drastically reduce the risk of mechanical failures such as overheating or sparking, which are common triggers for fires in dry rural environments.

We also ask for fire breaks to be made around the perimeter of Quarry operations to mitigate the risk when a fire does break out.

Taking these proactive steps is not only a matter of regulatory compliance—it is a necessary safeguard for protecting the lives, homes, and natural surroundings of everyone in the region. Without these measures in place, the proposed expansion poses an unacceptable fire risk to both the community and the environment.

Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

The initial approval of the Whittlesea Quarry was based on a defined and limited scope—one that aligned with the local area's needs and capacity at the time. Since then, the landscape of resource extraction in the region has changed significantly. Other major quarries, including those at Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla, have been developed and are now fully operational. Importantly, these sites are located at safer distances from residential areas and are well-positioned to meet the current and projected demand for materials across the region.

It has come to our attention that the Quarry operator already purchases minerals from these other quarries. If this is the case then instead of expansion he could just go on with the business arrangements he already has with these quarries.

In this context, the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry appears redundant and unwarranted. Rather than fulfilling a demonstrated gap in supply, the proposal seems to add unnecessary capacity, further concentrating extractive operations in an already impacted area. This raises serious concerns for nearby residents, who would face increased exposure to noise, dust, traffic congestion, environmental harm, and added pressure on local infrastructure.

Beyond this specific case, the proposal also reflects a broader and troubling trend in the industry: unchecked expansion that prioritizes economic gain over the wellbeing of local communities and the environment. The cumulative impact of multiple quarries in such close proximity has not been thoroughly assessed, nor have the long-term implications for the area's livability, ecological integrity, or landscape character been given due consideration.

We strongly urge decision-makers to carefully scrutinize the necessity of this expansion and to place significant weight on the social and environmental costs it would impose. Responsible planning must move toward sustainable development that balances economic objectives with the health, safety, and enduring values of the local community.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry poses serious and far-reaching threats to both public health and the local tourism economy—two pillars that are essential to the identity and future of Myponga.

From a health perspective, the increased dust emissions, including harmful silica particles, represent a grave risk to residents, visitors, and particularly vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. Prolonged exposure to airborne dust has been linked to respiratory illnesses, lung disease, and long-term health complications. The constant noise from blasting and heavy machinery also contributes to stress, sleep disruption, and diminished quality of life. These are not theoretical risks—they are medically documented impacts that can alter lives and burden communities.

Equally concerning is the impact on tourism, which plays a critical role in supporting Myponga's small businesses and regional economy. This area has built a growing reputation as a peaceful, nature-based destination—celebrated in Fleurieu Peninsula tourism promotions for its wildlife, landscapes, and access to the Heysen Trail. Visitors come here to unwind, breathe fresh air, and experience the unspoiled environment. An expanded quarry, visible from key walking routes and accompanied by industrial noise, traffic, and dust, would severely undermine this appeal.

Local accommodation providers, tour operators, and other tourism-related businesses are already expressing deep concern about the viability of their operations if the expansion proceeds. The guest experience is central to their success—and that experience depends entirely on Myponga remaining clean, quiet, and beautiful.

Beyond the immediate impacts, this proposal also reflects a failure to properly account for the long-term effects on community wellbeing, environmental quality, and the regional economy. The risks of biodiversity loss, water contamination, cultural disruption, and increased traffic hazards have not been adequately examined.

Given these critical concerns, we urge the Department for Energy and Mining to reject the current proposal unless it is subjected to a full, independent review—one that includes comprehensive health impact studies, tourism and economic modelling, and meaningful community consultation. Only through such a process can a responsible, evidence-based decision be made.

We stand firmly opposed to the expansion—not simply to protect what we have today, but to ensure a safe, healthy, and economically resilient future for all who live in and visit Myponga.

If you would like to discuss this further feel free to reach out.

[redacted]

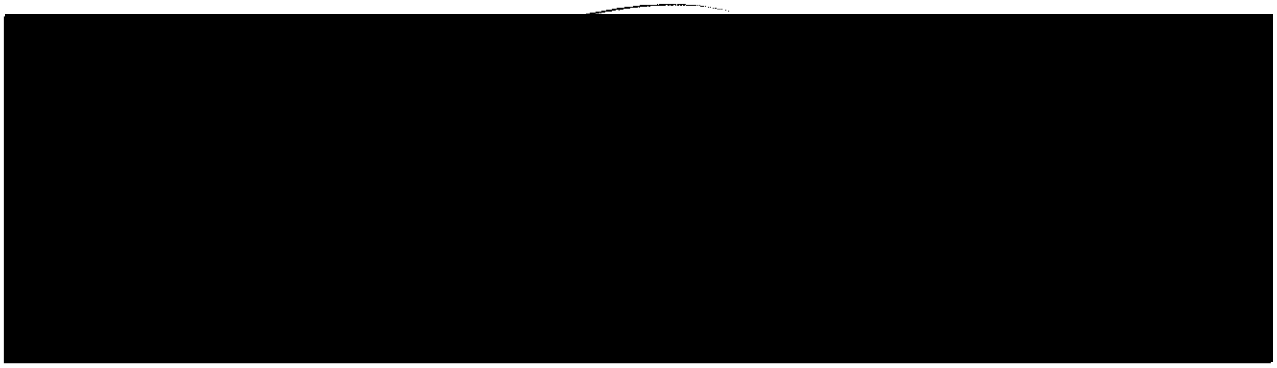
Objection to Whittlesea Quarry Expansion Proposal

Guest at Heysens Rest

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a yoga enthusiast who recently stayed at Heysens Rest for a meditation retreat, I am writing to formally object to the proposed Whittlesea Quarry expansion. The serene environment was perfect for my daily yoga practice, offering the silence necessary for deep meditation and mindfulness. This tranquility, a cornerstone of Heysens Rest's appeal, is directly threatened by the quarry's expansion.

1. Noise Pollution
   The current quarry operations, located over 600 meters away, already produce disruptive noise that occasionally interrupts my yoga sessions. The proposed eastern pit, at just 350 meters from the accommodation, will significantly increase noise levels, making it impossible to maintain the peaceful atmosphere essential for meditation and relaxation. Guests like myself seek out Heysens Rest for its quiet bush setting, and this expansion would undermine that core experience.
2. Air Quality Concerns
   Dust from the quarry poses a significant health risk. During my stay, I relied on the clean air for deep breathing exercises integral to yoga. Increased dust from a closer quarry pit would compromise air quality, affecting both my practice and my health. The proposal's dust management measures are inadequate, and I request the implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System with daily reporting to ensure safety.
3. Community and Tourism Impact
   Heysens Rest is a vital part of the Myponga community's eco-tourism appeal, attracting visitors like myself for wellness retreats. The quarry expansion, with its noise and visual impact, contradicts the region's branding as a haven of "untamed wildlife" and stunning landscapes. This threatens the livelihoods of local businesses dependent on tourism.
4. Conclusion
   The Whittlesea Quarry expansion endangers the tranquil environment that makes Heysens Rest a unique destination. I urge the Department of Energy and Mining to reject this proposal or conduct a thorough review with meaningful community input. Protecting the peace and natural beauty of this area is essential for residents and visitors alike.



Objection to Whittlesea Quarry Expansion Proposal

Guest at Heysens Rest

To Whom It May Concern,

I choose to stay at Heysens Rest for its sustainable ethos, I am writing to oppose the Whittlesea Quarry expansion. This development threatens the pristine environment and eco-tourism appeal that drew me to Myponga.

1. Environmental Degradation

   The removal of 80–100-year-old trees will devastate habitats for native fauna, with new plantings taking decades to mature. The rehabilitation plan lacks detail, and Australia's poor track record—60,000 un-rehabilitated mines—casts doubt on its success. The proposal's 500mm soil layer does not specify topsoil, critical for plant survival.

2. Water Contamination

   The eastern pit's location in the Myponga Reservoir watershed risks contaminating drinking water through runoff. The Surface Water Flow Model is incomplete, and a comprehensive assessment is needed to protect this vital resource.

3. Tourism Impact

   Myponga's eco-tourism, celebrated in Fleurieu Peninsula materials, relies on its natural beauty. The quarry's visual and noise impacts will deter visitors like myself, harming local businesses like Heysens Rest.

4. Conclusion

   The Whittlesea Quarry expansion undermines Myponga's environmental integrity and tourism value. I urge the Department to reject this proposal and conduct an independent environmental review.



Objection to Whittlesea Quarry Expansion Proposal

Guest at Heysens Rest

To Whom It May Concern,

As a business traveller who stayed at Heysens Rest, I am writing to oppose the Whittlesea Quarry expansion. The quiet environment allowed me to work efficiently, but a pit 350 meters away would disrupt that productivity with noise and dust.

1. Noise Disruption

   The current quarry's noise, over 600 meters away, was occasionally disruptive. A closer pit will make it impossible to focus on work calls or reports. The 24-hour blasting notice is impractical for my tightly planned schedule.

2. Traffic Safety

   Main South Road, used for my travel, is already hazardous. Increased quarry truck traffic will worsen safety at the entrance, a known accident hotspot. A dedicated slip lane is essential.

3. Community Impact

   The quarry threatens Myponga's appeal as a tranquil destination for professionals like me. A petition with 120 signatures reflects the community's opposition to this disruption.

4. Conclusion

   The Whittlesea Quarry expansion endangers the productive environment I valued at Heysens Rest. I urge the Department to reject this proposal to preserve Myponga's appeal.



UNOFFICIAL

To Whom It May Concern,

As a guest who has stayed at Heysens Rest on multiple occasions, I hereby submit my formal objection to the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

This proposal presents an unacceptable environmental and economic risk to the region, with impacts that are fundamentally incompatible with existing land uses and established community values. The anticipated increases in noise pollution, dust emissions, and industrial traffic are wholly inconsistent with the surrounding tourism infrastructure and nature-based accommodation facilities, which depend entirely upon maintaining the area's tranquil environment and pristine natural character.

My experiences at Heysens Rest have been defined by the profound peace, natural beauty, and pristine environment that characterizes this remarkable region. The accommodation provides guests with an authentic connection to nature that would be irreversibly compromised by industrial quarrying operations. The regional tourism sector represents a sustainable and growing economic contributor that operates in harmony with environmental preservation. Establishments such as Heysens Rest are inherently incompatible with industrial quarrying operations of the proposed scale. The resultant disruption would inevitably compromise visitor experiences, damage business reputations, and jeopardize employment within the tourism sector. The economic detriment to the broader community significantly outweighs any short-term commercial benefit to the quarry operator.

The assessment process has failed to adequately examine the comprehensive social and economic ramifications of this proposal. There is insufficient evidence of genuine consideration given to viable alternatives or the implementation of robust mitigation strategies that would address community concerns.

This region possesses intrinsic value extending beyond immediate economic considerations, encompassing its distinctive character, biodiversity significance, and contribution to community quality of life. Industrial development of this magnitude would result in the irreversible loss of these fundamental attributes.

I respectfully urge the DEM to reject this expansion proposal in its current form. Any development of such magnitude must demonstrate greater procedural transparency, incorporate long-term strategic vision, and exhibit proper regard for the communities and environments it would affect.

1. Noise Pollution

Currently they are experiencing disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from the accommodation and will increase the noise significantly.

This directly affects the function of Heysens Rest, which depends on the peaceful bush surrounded environment. They host numerous guests annually, many of whom seek out the quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

There has never been consultation about current noise levels, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting and heavy vehicle movements. 24 hours’ notice is insufficient for rescheduling bookings, some of which are made six months in advance. Although the community is promised to be notified of blasting, they have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. This is an un-acceptable solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

2. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea. The Fleurier Peninsular should not have to undergo another large scar to its pristine environment.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. More detail is needed to further outline of how keeping the trees alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

There are also questions about the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

The major concern is dust, with the accommodation located on a dirt road, this will always be a factor, but it is now at an acceptable level. Nunn road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily residents, an increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation and blasting will undeniably worsen dust conditions. The is also a major concern for anyone who would suffer from heath concerns due to dust in the area.

Although it says operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. The recent drought has left the land extremely dry with dust becoming worse the drier it gets. As the mine gets 350

meters from the edge of the property, the resulting dust will only intensify. The property relies solely on rainwater tanks, increased dust will contaminate the primary water source, putting their family and guests health at risk.

The solution put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed. It is requested that the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork, with the quarry operations ceasing immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing. The Department of Energy and Mining approved this quarry under similar conditions, which is obviously not working due to the push back from residents located further away from the quarry site then in this situation.

4. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental health concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to identify and manage this risk.

A second, more comprehensive water flow model is requested, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side— the primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

5. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document from the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. There are ongoing consultation with Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

6. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention a protected conservation area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is

managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rests regularly attracts birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 species listed in the report. With Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, they are often seen in large flocks flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant not chosen by the applicant.

Wedge-tailed Eagles are frequently observed hunting and returning near the proposed site. There have been recorded over 30 sightings in the past few months, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

7. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is being put into the area in regard to new housing and infrastructure, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

‘In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The maneuver should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety’

Its hard to believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without an accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

8. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. Dust and noise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the

people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating.

9. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

10. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

11. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the character of the Myponga community.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined pending proper review and genuine consultation with residents, cultural representatives, and environmental experts.

UNOFFICIAL

We stand firmly opposed to the development and will continue to advocate for the protection of the Myponga community, the environment, and way of life.

Sincerely,



To Whom It May Concern,

I write to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident with a young family who lives in close proximity to the proposed expansion site, we hold significant concerns regarding the implications that this development will have on our health, quality of life, property value, and the broader community.

There has previously been lots of concerns raised during the community engagement phase initiated by the applicant. We don't think that any of the solutions in rebuttal to these concerns are adequate. We now wish to formally submit our concerns, along with additional issues that have since come to our attention. It is our belief that this proposal has not undergone sufficient due diligence in several critical areas. This proposal needs to undergo a level of scrutiny that we don't believe is being given to such a sensitive issue to us.It should also be noted that at no time did the applicant engage directly with the affected parties on Nunn Road despite a number of requests to his Consultant to facilitate a meeting to work through the concerns and issues any expansion of the mine would bring to the environment and our quality of life.

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1. Lack of detail by Applicant

There are many discrepancies and errors made in this application which make us wonder how many are in the entire application. With a limited time frame to thoroughly go through the application we have put together the ones we have noticed.

When looking up EML 5542, what they have done is very odd in that they have pegged MC4569 *over EML 5542* which is not the way this is normally done. Normally a Mineral Claim is never pegged over an active tenement, normally the Mineral Claim is pegged out separately. We are wondering if the applicant does not know what they are doing, or we wonder whether they are trying to have as few residences caught in the distance limit as possible.

The concerns raised and emailed through to the applicant by one of our neighbours were never entered into this application to the Department Of Energy and Mining. These concerns were sent through before the deadline for the community consultation period, in addition to this a petition of 300 signatures. Not adding this information to the application shows the complete lack oversight from the applicant in this process.

With concerns raised about the 'Drag Out Traffic' in the application, it seems that the applicant didn't know the meaning of this, referencing the dirt pulled out into the road. Drag out traffic means something completely different. This also shows a lack of knowledge and insite when it come to terms and processes used in this type of application process. '*In South Australia, trucks merging onto a road should not "drag out" their merge manoeuvre, meaning they shouldn't take an unnecessarily long time to complete the merge. This is because it can create a hazard for other vehicles waiting to merge or for vehicles already traveling on the road. The manoeuvre should be done quickly and efficiently, while still ensuring safety'* We don't believe trucks laden with heavy loads can achieve this manoeuvre safely on this section of the

road. We reference this in more detail in the Traffic safety and Infrastructure section of this letter.

We believe there is need for in-depth consultation process, monitoring and reporting to be undertaken by parties not chosen by the applicant, in many aspects of this application. We have outlined these in the Air Quality, Surface Water, Cultural Heritage, Native Flora and Fauna, Noise Pollution, Community Values, and Bush Fire Risk sections of this letter.

Furthermore it has come to our attention that one of our neighbours, who is an important part of this whole application process was never sent a letter by the Department of Energy and Mining informing them this application is being assessed by their department. Seeing that there is a waiver required by them to sign, for this proposal to go ahead as specified, this is more than a small error on the behalf of DEM. We are all wondering which other residencies have not received a letter in regards to this process.

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2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination

The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.

We request a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam.

We don't believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

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3. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts

Our primary concern is the anticipated increase in airborne dust due to the quarry expansion. While we live on a dirt road, it is a quiet dead-end road with minimal traffic—primarily local residents. One of our neighbours has already faced trading restrictions due to dust emissions related to traffic volumes. An increase in heavy vehicle traffic and on-site excavation will undeniably worsen dust conditions.

There are many families in this area who have close family members who suffer from dust related issues, an increase in dust would make this area unliveable to some and to others they wouldn't be able to visit loved ones.

Although we've been told operations will continue as usual after the extension, it has also been stated that periods of increased work could occur due to larger orders - leading to more dust. We recently experienced a drought, leaving the land extremely dry. As the mine expands the resulting dust will only intensify.

Our household, like others in the area, relies solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source, putting our family's health at risk.

We have found all the solutions put forward in the proposal for dust management are insufficient, should the project proceed, we request the implementation of a comprehensive **Silica Dust Monitoring System**, including **TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors** and **Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI)**, operating during all quarry activity hours. Daily results should be reported to DEM, and SafeWork and quarry operations should cease immediately if limits are exceeded.

Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have already led to community unrest, health deterioration, and multiple families leaving the area. In a time of housing crisis, residents should not be forced to choose between health and housing.

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4. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure

The section of Main South Road where the quarry entrance is located is already hazardous, with multiple accidents and closures occurring on this stretch of road all the time. When closures occur, traffic is rerouted to Forktree Road, which is unsuitable for heavy traffic.

Since the opening of the quarry in 1988 there has a been a increased volume of traffic on this road, along side the growth that is happening and popularityof the Fleurier Peninsular as a whole, more drivers will be using this road in years to come. Having a lone staff site member trying to navigate cars moving at 100kms around a corner, trying to say whether it is safe for a truck to pull out is an unreasonable traffic management plans when it comes to the strict standards and protocol being enforced these days.

We don't believe that trucks under load or machinery can complete this safely, for the business to continue to do this safely for another 19 years without a accident is questionable.

Should the project proceed, the quarry operator must be required to fund a dedicated slip lane for safe access and egress of quarry trucks. Similar requirements have been placed on other quarries with high-traffic risks.

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5. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns

The visual impact alone will have a lasting negative effect on the area's scenic quality. Although the proposal outlines rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows a poor success rate for full mine rehabilitation in Australia. A 2017 report by the Australian Institute identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated mines nationwide, which raises serious doubts about the reliability of post-mining land recovery efforts.

A relevant local example is Sellicks Hill Quarry—despite attempted rehabilitation, it remains a prominent eyesore. This precedent further undermines confidence in the proposed plans for Whittlesea.

The expansion will leave large disturbed areas visible from South Road, significantly impacting the character of the Myponga community and the aesthetic appeal of the region. The rehabilitation outlined is taking place years after the initial disturbance, leaving the landscape barren and unattractive for extended periods. With the region experiencing hot summers and low rainfall (as recently seen in 2024), newly planted vegetation will be especially vulnerable unless a robust and consistent watering plan is implemented. We would like a further outline of how keeping the tree alive would be managed.

The proposal states that 500mm of stored soil will be laid, but does not confirm whether this includes topsoil—a critical component for plant survival. Topsoil provides essential nutrients, retains moisture, and supports drainage. Without it, plantings are unlikely to thrive. Furthermore, during high-rainfall winters, the absence of ground cover (like mulch, grasses, or tree foliage) will result in water runoff and further site erosion.

We also question the ecological recovery claims made in the proposal. The existing trees being removed are 80–100 years old and provide critical habitat for native fauna, especially birds. It will take up to 100 years for new trees to develop the mature trunks and hollows necessary for nesting. Even general ecological benefits, like habitat linkage and canopy development, could take 20 years or more—a long period for the area to remain degraded for the benefit of a single mining operation.

The whole proposed rehabilitation plan lacks depth, detail, and evidence of likely success. The environmental and visual toll on the region is too great a cost, and we urge a more thorough review of the long-term impacts before any approval is granted.

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6. Noise Pollution

We have reviewed the quarry operator’s response to noise concerns, which claims that operations will remain unchanged. However, we currently experience disruptive noise from the western pit—over 600 metres away. The proposed eastern pit is only 350 metres from our home and will increase noise significantly.

We have never been consulted about current noise levels, nor have many of our neighbours, despite ongoing disturbances from quarry blasting. 24 hours’ notice is insufficient warning for some of the people who live and work in the area. Some of the neighbours who have lived in the area have never had any contact by the quarry operator in regards to noise, 1 neighbour has contacted once about noise in 13 years. Another neighbour has an accommodation business that is already affected as they run wellness retreats, as small accommodation business which is vital to the tourism sector in this area, they depends on the peaceful environment. Many of their guests stay with them to seek out a quiet bush setting for yoga, meditation, and eco-tourism, including walkers on the Heysen Trail.

Although we are promised to be notified of blasting, we have low expectations that this will occur due to the past management of this situation. We don’t accept this as a solution and request community approval as to when the blasting would occur.

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7. Cultural Heritage

This area has cultural significance to the Karuna People, as parts of their dreaming stories pass through here. There is a document at the Yankalilla Historical Society, identifying this area as a potential burial site. The document references a massacre in 1850 or 1851 involving 14 First Nations individuals, believed to be buried somewhere along present-day Nunn Road area. This has not been acknowledged in the report. We are currently in the process of contacting Kaurna Elders and relevant cultural authorities to help locate and confirm the location of this site.

Disturbance of such an area must be subject to rigorous investigation and consultation with Aboriginal heritage groups.

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8. Native Flora and Fauna

While an Ecological Baseline Survey (GBS Consulting, dated 13 January 2025) has been submitted, it fails to mention work that the owners of Burrangong are doing on a section of their farm to protect and conserve an area located just 400 metres from the quarry site. This area is managed in collaboration with The Nature Foundation, Trees for Life, the Conservation Council, Livestock SA, and the Nature Conservation Society.

Heysens Rest regularly attracts groups of birdwatchers. A recent group identified 33 different bird species, far more than the 20 identified in this report. Two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos listed in the report as a vulnerable species, there are often flocks of these birds flying through this area. Rare and vulnerable species such as the Flame and Scarlet Robins have also been seen in this area but were not reported. This identifies a lack of research that went into this report, and ask for it to be completed again by a different consultant chosen by us or Native Vegetation.

We frequently observe Wedge-tailed Eagles hunting and returning near the proposed site. We've recorded over 30 sightings in the past month, suggesting a nearby nesting site that should be protected under environmental law.

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9. Quality of Life

This proposal threatens all the residents and community in this area, which is used to being in a peaceful rural bush setting. The extra dust and noise which will arise from the quarry expansion jeopardises the lives of the people who choose to call this area home, it directly affects the families which have individuals who have health conditions.

The emotional and financial toll of this proposal would be devastating

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10. Community Values

Myponga has grown into a desirable destination for eco-tourism and nature-based recreation. The region, as described in Fleurier Peninsula tourism materials, is one “where untamed wildlife thrives amidst stunning landscapes.” This accommodation is located along the Heysen Trail and host many walkers who choose this accommodation for its tranquil setting. An expanded quarry, visible from major tourist routes and adjacent to a reservoir, directly contradicts this vision.

A community petition opposing the quarry expansion has already attracted 120 signatures in 17 days, and efforts are underway to reach 1,000 signatures.

There was another petition which has over 200 signatures in 3 weeks which was never added to the application to DEM by the applicant.

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11. Property Values

The expansion will significantly reduce property values:

- Homes within 400 metres of a quarry can lose up to 30% of value.
- Within 1 mile, reductions of approximately 19% are typical.
- Causes include dust, noise, traffic, and visual degradation.

This affects not only us but also our close neighbours and the broader Myponga area.

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12. Bushfire Risk

There is widespread community concern over the increased bushfire risk due to intensified use of heavy machinery and blasting throughout the quarry site. With fires that have occurred on that particular hill already, there is concern from the residents about this risk becoming a fire that can not be contained one day. The region’s bushfire vulnerability must be a central consideration.

We request that there are strict maintenance requirements and reports placed on the aging heavy machinery used in the quarry, dictated and overseen by DEM on a monthly basis. Another option is, brand new machinery is to be purchased by the operator to ensure it safe working order.

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13. Oversaturation – Too Many Quarries

When the Whittlesea Quarry was first approved, it was intended to serve a specific, limited purpose. With two other large quarries in the area, Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla Quarry, there is no need for the expansion to take place. These other quarries situated further away from residents are ample enough to cover the supply need for the area. The current expansion reflects a broader industry trend of overdevelopment, with insufficient regard for cumulative community impacts.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of Whittlesea Quarry presents unacceptable and far-reaching risks to public health, environmental integrity, cultural heritage, road safety, and the distinctive character of the Myponga community. The cumulative impact of increased industrial activity—including dust, noise, traffic, and landscape degradation—poses a serious threat to both human wellbeing and the fragile ecosystems that define this region.

This proposal disregards the voices of residents and local stakeholders, many of whom rely on the tranquillity and natural beauty of this area for their livelihoods, mental health, and cultural connection. The long-term consequences of proceeding without thorough, transparent impact assessment and inclusive consultation are irreversible.

We respectfully urge that this application be declined unless and until a full, independent review is conducted, with meaningful engagement involving residents, cultural custodians, environmental scientists, and public health experts.

We stand firmly opposed to this development and will continue to advocate for the protection of our community, our environment, and our way of life—for current and future generations



[redacted]

From: [redacted]
[redacted]
Tuesday, 10 June 2025 7:56 AM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Formal objection

You don't often get [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,
I am writing to formally object to the proposed expansion of the Whittlesea Quarry. As a resident of the Fleurieu Peninsula and someone who works in Myponga, I am deeply concerned about the significant and lasting impacts this expansion would have on the local community—particularly those living in close proximity to the site. Numerous community members have expressed to me their fears about the serious consequences this proposal poses to public health, quality of life, property values, and the overall wellbeing of our region.
While community consultation was undertaken by the applicant, many valid concerns were raised at that time, and the responses offered have been, in our view, insufficient and dismissive. We now wish to formally reiterate those concerns and raise further issues that have emerged since the initial engagement. It is evident that this proposal has not been subject to the level of due diligence necessary for a development of this scale, and we strongly believe it requires far more rigorous assessment and scrutiny. The sensitive nature of this project and its potential for irreversible harm demands a far higher standard of review than it has currently received.
1. Air Quality – Dust Emissions and Health Impacts
A primary concern is increased airborne dust from the quarry expansion. Many local families have members with dust-related health issues. Increased dust would make this area unliveable for some residents and prevent others from visiting loved ones.
While operations will allegedly continue as usual post-expansion, the proposal acknowledges periods of intensified activity during large orders, creating dust surges. Recent drought conditions left the land extremely dry, and expansion will intensify resulting dust.
The households surrounding the quarry rely solely on rainwater tanks. Increased dust will contaminate our primary water source and endanger our family's health.
The proposal's dust management solutions are insufficient. If approved, we demand implementation of a comprehensive Silica Dust Monitoring System including TSI DustTrak Aerosol Monitors and Multi-Wavelength Absorption Black Carbon Instruments (MABI) operating during all quarry hours. Daily results must be reported to DEM and SafeWork, with immediate operations cessation if limits are exceeded.
Dust issues at Sellicks Hill Quarry have caused community unrest, health deterioration, and forced multiple families to relocate. During a housing crisis, residents shouldn't face choosing between health and housing.

2. Surface Water and Runoff Contamination
The proposed eastern pit lies within the same watershed as the Myponga Reservoir, raising major environmental concerns. A gully just east of the site channels surface water directly into the reservoir catchment, yet the current Surface Water Flow Model fails to reflect this risk.
There is a request for a second, more comprehensive water flow model, as the current proposal cuts off on the eastern side—our primary concern for runoff into the catchment. This area is directly connected to the reservoir via causeway pipework, and any contaminated runoff will compromise South Australia's drinking water.

Increased erosion, particularly where vegetation is removed for spoil mounds, is also a concern. Neighbours have already noticed silt and sediment runoff from the current quarry into their dam. We don’t believe there has been enough detail in the ramifications and the solutions put forward by the applicant in regards to dealing with these concerns.

3. Traffic Safety and Infrastructure
The Main South Road quarry entrance is already hazardous, with frequent accidents and road closures. During closures, traffic diverts to Forktree Road, which cannot safely accommodate heavy vehicles.

Since the quarry opened in 1988, traffic volumes have steadily increased. Combined with ongoing regional growth and the Fleurieu Peninsula's rising popularity, road usage will continue expanding. Current traffic management relies on a single site staff member to determine when trucks can safely enter or exit while vehicles travel at 100km/h around a corner—an inadequate system given today's strict safety standards and protocols.
Loaded trucks and heavy machinery cannot safely execute the required maneuvers at this location. The likelihood of operating safely for another 19 years without a serious accident is questionable.

If the project proceeds, the quarry operator must fund construction of a dedicated slip lane ensuring safe quarry vehicle access and egress. Similar safety requirements have been mandated at other high-traffic risk quarries.

4. Visual Amenity and Rehabilitation Concerns
The visual impact will permanently damage the area's scenic quality. While the proposal includes rehabilitation measures, historical evidence shows poor mine rehabilitation success rates in Australia. A 2017 Australian Institute report identified approximately 60,000 abandoned and un-rehabilitated areas.

Please don't do this.
Thankyou

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 June 2025 6:28 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Objection to Whittlesea Quarry

You don't often get [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed extension of the Whittlesea Quarry.

As a guest of Heysen's Rest, I chose this accommodation specifically for its natural surroundings and deep sense of tranquillity—qualities that are increasingly rare and form the heart of what makes this region special. My stay was memorable for the peaceful bush setting, the absence of industrial noise, and the chance to enjoy quiet reflection and nature-based activities. These are not luxuries; they are essential to wellbeing and are exactly what eco-tourism destinations like Heysen's Rest offer.

I am deeply concerned that the proposed quarry expansion threatens to erase this experience—not just for me, but for future visitors and the local community. Below are the key reasons I believe this proposal should not proceed:

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1. Increased Noise Disturbance

Even with the current western pit over 600 metres away, I noticed disruptive noise during my stay. The proposed eastern pit—just 350 metres from the accommodation—will only worsen the problem. This isn't just an inconvenience; it undermines the very reason people come to Heysen's Rest, including for activities like meditation and bushwalking.

No consultation was ever undertaken about current noise levels, and guests are given minimal notice before blasting. Expecting visitors to reschedule long-planned stays due to last-minute blasting announcements is simply unworkable. At the very least, blast scheduling should involve local consent and transparent communication.

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2. Visual Degradation and Poor Rehabilitation Prospects

The expansion will scar the visual landscape that defines the Fleurieu Peninsula. Although rehabilitation has been promised, I am sceptical—examples like Sellicks Hill Quarry show that even attempted rehabilitation often leaves behind long-term environmental damage.

The current rehabilitation plan lacks detail. Will genuine topsoil be used? How will revegetation survive harsh summer conditions? The removal of century-old trees means destroying habitats that cannot be replaced within our lifetimes. A 20- to 100-year regrowth timeline cannot justify the immediate destruction.

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3. Dust and Health Risks

During my visit, dust levels were manageable because Nunn Road has very little traffic. But if this expansion proceeds—with more trucks, excavation, and blasting—the situation will deteriorate rapidly. Heysen's Rest collects rainwater for drinking, and an increase in airborne dust threatens to contaminate that supply.

The quarry's current dust mitigation plans are too vague. A proper monitoring system, using standard aerosol monitors with daily reporting to DEM and SafeWork, must be mandatory. The health concerns and displacement seen around Sellicks Hill Quarry must not be repeated here.

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4. Surface Water Risk

The proposed site drains into the Myponga Reservoir catchment—one of the state's drinking water sources. The modelling fails to convincingly address the risk of runoff, particularly from the eastern side, where it could feed directly into the reservoir system.

Residents already report sediment entering their dams near the current quarry. Without ground cover, runoff and erosion will only worsen.

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5. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

This area has significance for the Kaurna people. Historical accounts reference an 1850s massacre, possibly with burial grounds along present-day Nunn Road. The current proposal fails to acknowledge this.

Development must be paused until proper cultural consultation and archaeological investigation are undertaken. This is not just a formality—it is a matter of respect and justice.

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6. Biodiversity Loss

The ecological report submitted fails to mention a nearby conservation area, just 500 metres from the proposed site. Birdlife observed by guests is also underreported. Species like the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and Scarlet Robin—both threatened—are present but inadequately addressed.

Of particular concern are the Wedge-tailed Eagles known to frequent the area. An independent environmental impact assessment is needed—not one funded by the applicant.

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7. Road Safety and Infrastructure

Main South Road already sees frequent accidents. More quarry trucks will make it worse, especially with current issues around visibility and traffic speed. Having just one staff member manage truck exits is grossly insufficient.

A dedicated slip lane should be a non-negotiable requirement—this is common practice elsewhere in the state.

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8. Community Wellbeing

People live here for the quiet and the landscape. Dust, noise, and heavy machinery don't just degrade the environment—they harm people's health, particularly those with respiratory or sensory issues. The emotional toll of watching one's sanctuary be degraded cannot be overstated.

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9. Threat to Local Identity and Tourism

Myponga has built a reputation as a peaceful, nature-based destination. This quarry expansion contradicts that entirely, especially given its proximity to routes like the Heysen Trail.

Multiple petitions reflect growing public opposition, including one that gathered over 120 signatures in just 17 days. Another, with 200 signatures, was reportedly ignored by the applicant. That is unacceptable.

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10. Bushfire Risk

Blasting and heavy equipment in this already fire-prone area heighten the risk of catastrophe. Fires have occurred on this very hill before—future incidents could be far worse. Fire prevention must be a top priority in any proposal review.

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11. Industry Saturation

There are already large quarries operating nearby in Sellicks Hill and Yankalilla. Expanding this one does not reflect local need—it reflects unchecked industrial sprawl. That pattern must be challenged.

Conclusion

The Whittlesea Quarry expansion puts the environment, public health, and cultural heritage at risk. It threatens the very qualities that make this region liveable and visitable. I urge decision-makers to reject the proposal and instead commission a transparent, independent review in consultation with locals, environmental scientists, and Traditional Custodians.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]